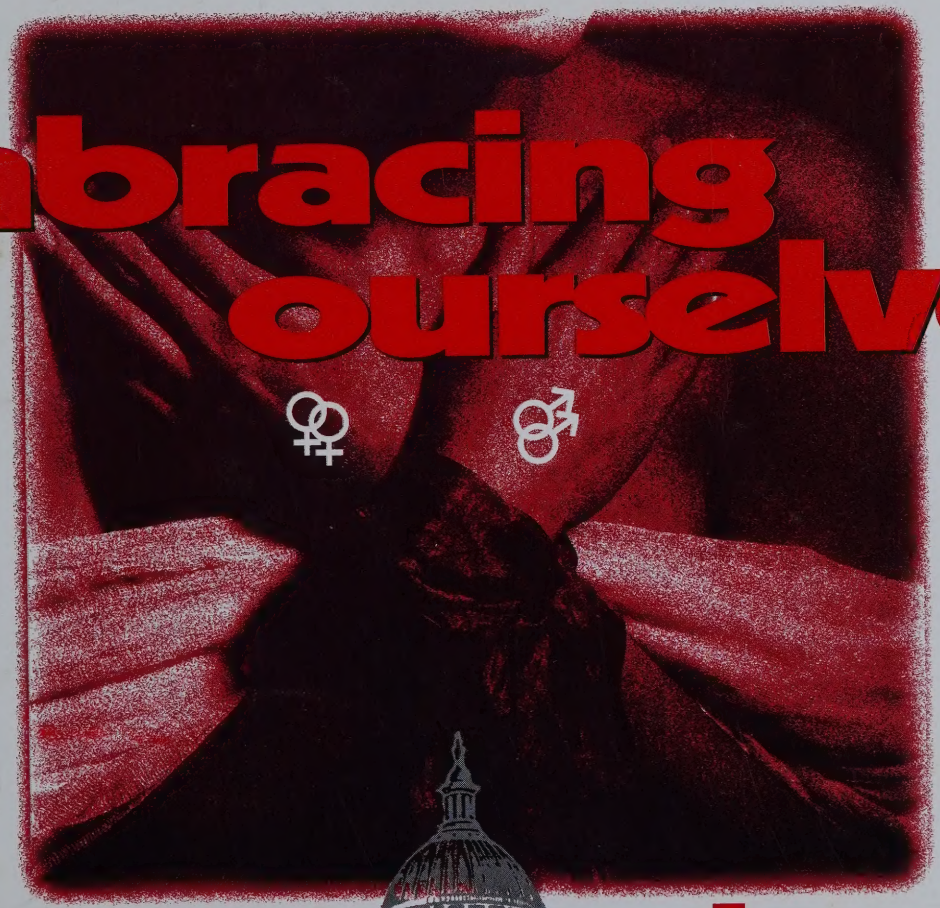
the 1998 national black lesbian and gay conference

eleventh annual

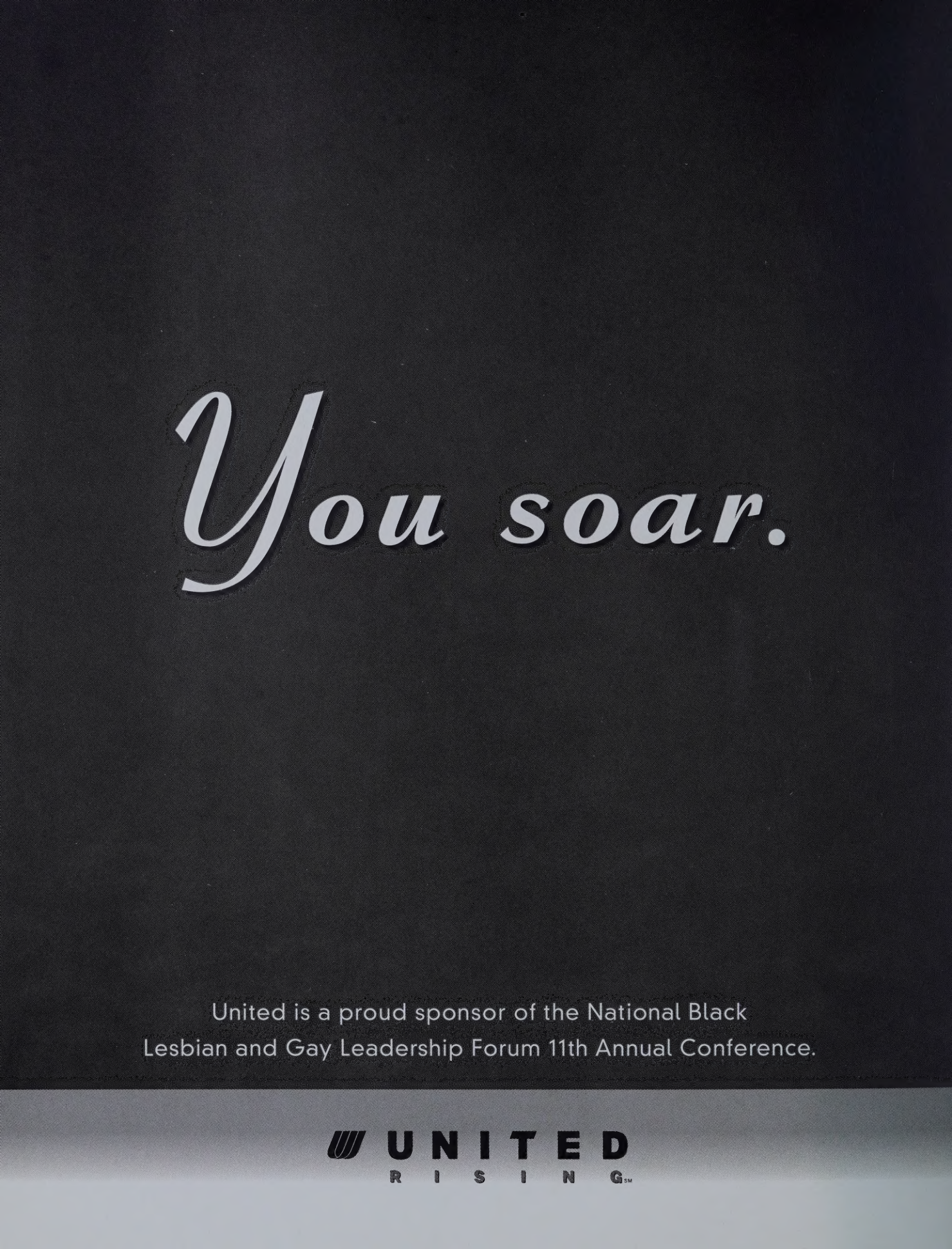
February 12~15

crystal city
hyatt regency hotel



embracing ourselves

empowering our communities


You soar.
United is a proud sponsor of the National Black
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embracing
ourselves
empowering
our communities

"When I dare to be powerful,
to use my strength
in the service of my vision,
then it becomes
less and less important
whether I am afraid."

-- Audre Lorde

Dare to be powerful.

The National Black Lesbian and Gay
Leadership Forum

1436 U Street, NW, Suite 200 • Washington, DC 20009 • (202) 483-6786 • nblglf@aol.com • www.nblglf.org

The 11th Annual National Black Lesbian and Gay Conference and Institutes

Embracing Ourselves, Empowering Our Communities

February 12-15, 1998

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Welcome From Conference Co-Chair

February 12, 1998

Welcome to the 1998 National Black Lesbian and Gay Conference!

Whether this is your first time or your eleventh time, there is something in the Conference for everyone. We have tried hard to create a safe and welcoming space for you this week, where you can be yourself, learn, grow, and enjoy.

Over the next few days, you will have the opportunity to connect and network with people from all walks of life and from all points of the country. Although the Conference only happens one weekend a year, the spirit lasts much longer.

Enjoy the Conference!

Sincerely,

Debra Rose
Conference Co-Chair

Steve Walker

Steve Walker
Conference Co-Chair

Welcome From Conference Co-Chair

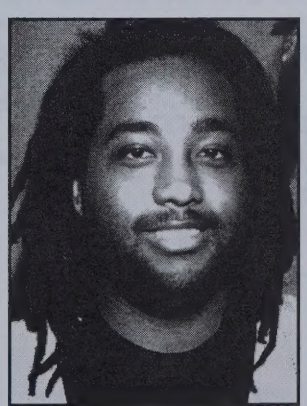
Sisters and Brothers,

On behalf of the chairpersons of the Steering Committee and the volunteers, welcome to Chocolate City. There is no better location in the country to feel the embrace of our communities and recognize ways in which we are empowered. This is the first time the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum has chosen to host its annual conference in the Washington metro area. We are pleased to have had the opportunity to help shape this conference and look forward to hosting again before another 11 years pass.

The conference schedule is designed to fulfill whatever your needs and desires might be. There are opportunities to learn, share, party, teach, groove, worship, preach, shout, and meditate. We have worked to present a program that appeals to Black Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, and Transgendered people... and their friends (grin). Take advantage of the workshops and the expertise of the faculty presenting in the womyn's, men's, youth, spirtuality, organizers, health and wellness, and literary concentrations... and don't forget about aerobics each early morning. We have even tossed in a few surprises, so as not to completely ignore Friday the 13th, Valentine's Day, and the long holiday weekend.

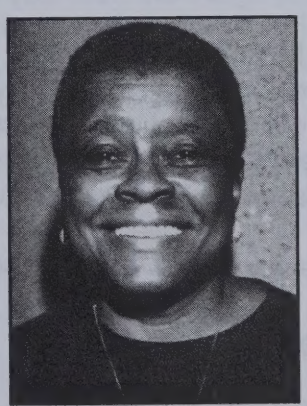
For many, many days we have been fussing over this conference, getting it ready for "company coming." We trust that you'll be pleased with the content, production, and general vibe that we've enjoyed preparing for you. And we hope that you'll pretend not to notice, should you discover places where our good intentions didn't get the baseboards dusted off in time.

Black Blessings,

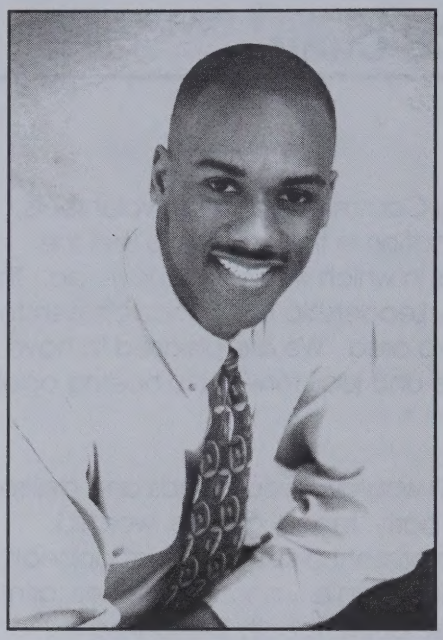


Kenyatta Dorey Graves
98 Regional Co-Chair, and
Conference Coordinator

In Joy,



Jannette Williams
98 Regional Co-Chair



Welcome

I am very proud to welcome you to the first National Black Lesbian and Gay Conference ever to take place in the Washington area.

During the four days of the Conference and Institutes, you will meet black lesbians and gays from all walks of life and from all parts of the world. We hope you will be inspired and challenged by this impressive community of people. In addition, we hope you will return home motivated and encouraged to make a significant, positive impact on your own community and your own life.

The annual conference often provides a time and place for transition, and this year is no exception as this weekend marks my third and final conference as Executive Director of the Forum.

In the past few years, I have been privileged to serve the Forum and the community during a time of enormous challenge and growth. On the inside, we've launched new national programs, hired our first national staff, doubled our membership, opened a new office in Washington, DC, and raised more than a million dollars in revenue.

On the outside, we've challenged the organizers of the Million Man March to include us, raised the profile of the black lesbian and gay community from CNN to BET to the CBC, and fought those who have tried to divide the black community by sexual orientation.

But now is not the time to rest on our laurels. In my travels from Harlem to Harare, Zimbabwe and to every major city in America, I've met black women and men of all sexual orientations who are hungry for the type of strong, visible leadership that the Forum provides. Our challenge for the future is to meet their needs, not only at the conference, but 365 days a year.

I'll see you on the exciting road ahead.

Sincerely,

Keith O. Boykin
Executive Director

Welcome From Willa Taylor

Friends,

It is indeed an honor and privilege for me to welcome you to the 1998 National Black Lesbian and Gay Conference on behalf of the Board of Directors.

There has always been something special about this conference. From the very first one at the University Hilton in Los Angeles, through last year's spectacular 10th anniversary celebration, this place has been a space for inspiration and education, for renewal and re-awakening; a place where we can collectively and clearly see the victory that is ours to be achieved.

Now, here in Washington, DC, we begin -- and continue -- our commitment to the struggle for social justice for all people. As the only national organization dedicated to advocating for and empowering the Black lesbian, gay , bisexual, and transgendered community, we are uniquely poised to build the bridges that strengthen our communities and create the more perfect world for those who will come after us.

I hope while you are here you will learn something new, re-connect with old friends, engage in fierce debate, laugh at our foibles, remember those who have made the way for us, celebrate our glorious diversity, and recharge and renew your souls for the work ahead. Please share your thoughts and ideas, your suggestions and comments, your concerns and your congratulations. This organization is only as good as each of you makes it.

When you have returned to your daily lives, I hope you will fondly remember this conference experience -- the people you met, the things you learned -- and you will re-dedicate yourselves and your efforts to strengthening and supporting the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum. It will take our collective work to achieve the justice we so innately deserve.

Enjoy this week, and let's continue to work together in the days to come.

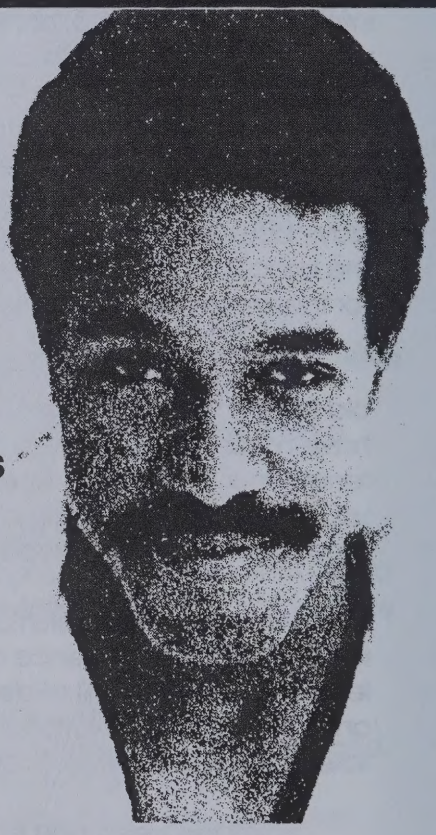
Walk in the light,

Willa Jonelle Taylor
Chair, Board of Directors

US HELPING US

specializes in HIV prevention and support services for black gay and bisexual men.

Our services include:



- support groups for men regardless of HIV status
- short term group therapy
- alcohol and drug-free social activities
- support groups for HIV positive men
- Brotherhood workshops (in private homes)
- community theater
- community forums
- HIV telephone help line
- referrals
- free condom kits

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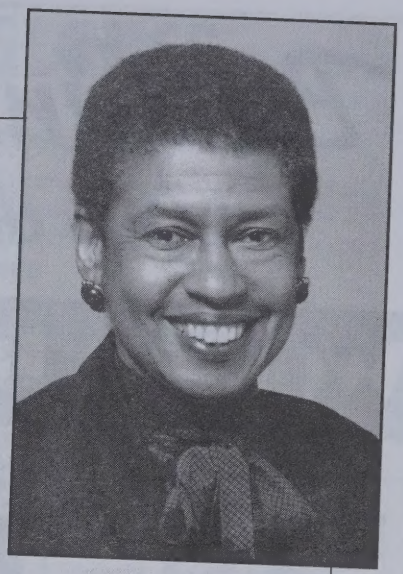

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

February 12, 1998

GREETINGS!

I am pleased to extend a special greeting to those attending the **11th Annual National Conference** of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum and to welcome visitors from across the country. I hope you will have an opportunity to explore some of the historic monuments, cultural institutions and neighborhoods that make Washington, DC one of the world's great cities.

As you acknowledge the challenges and celebrate the victories won during the last ten years, may you be inspired to continue the battle for justice for all Americans regardless of race or sexual orientation. You have my best wishes for a productive conference and continued success in all that you do.

Sincerely,

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Eleanor Holmes Norton

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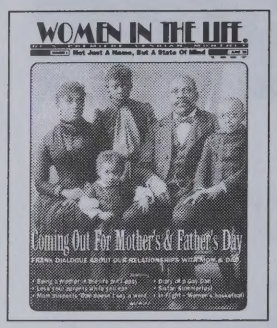

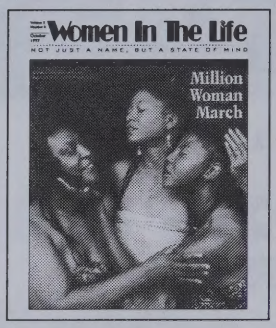

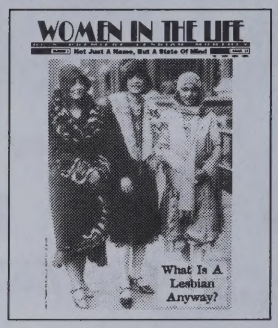

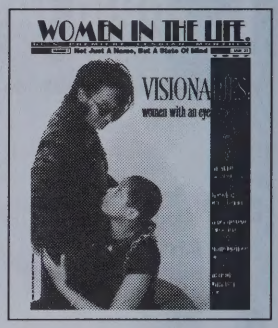

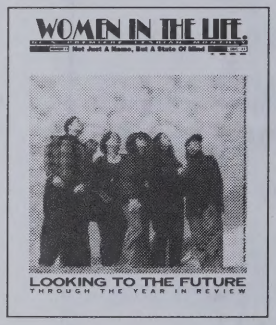

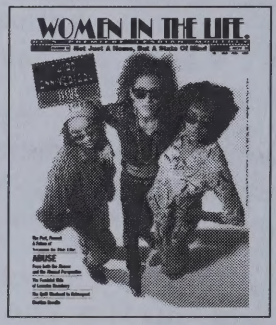

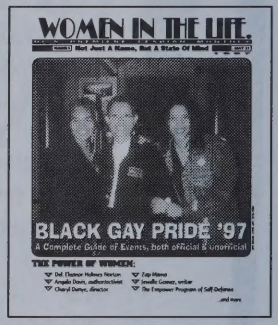

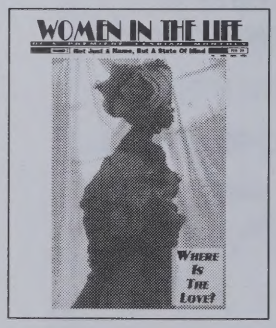

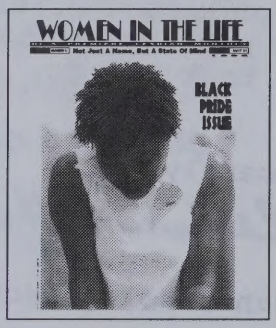

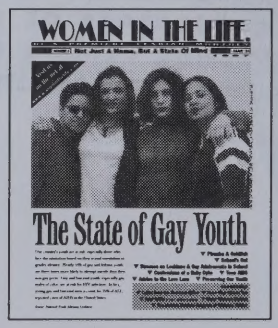

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THE CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

Thursday, February 12, 1998 (Health & Wellness Institute)

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. ..... Morning Aerobics (Fountain/Ludd Rooms)
7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. ..... Registration (Outside Hemphill/Hansberry)
8:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. ..... Continental Breakfast (Outside Jordan/Gleaton Rooms)
9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. ..... Opening Plenary (Hemphill/Hansberry)
11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. ..... Vendor Booths Open
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. ..... Workshop Session #1 (Workshop Rooms)
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. ..... Luncheon (Hemphill/Hansberry Room)
1:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. ..... Workshop Session #2 (Workshop Rooms)
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. ..... Workshop Session #3 (Workshop Rooms)
5:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. ..... Closing Plenary (Fountain/Ludd/Jordan/Gleaton Rooms)
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. ..... Celebration of Life Spiritual Service (Fountain/Ludd/Jordan/Gleaton)
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. ..... Playing Cards Tournament (Tibbs/Shabazz)

Friday, February 13, 1998 (Empowerment Institute)

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. ..... Morning Aerobics (Fountain/Ludd Rooms)
7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. ..... Registration (Outside Hemphill/Hansberry)
8:15 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. ..... First Time Attendees Orientation (Jordan Room)
8:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. ..... Continental Breakfast (Outside Jordan/Gleaton Rooms)
9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. ..... Opening Plenary (Hemphill/Hansberry)
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. ..... Vendor Booths Open
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. ..... Workshop Session #1 (Workshop Rooms)
12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. ..... Luncheon Plenary (Hemphill/Hansberry Room)
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. ..... Workshop Session #2 (Workshop Rooms)
3:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. ..... Community Issues Forum #1 (Hemphill/Hansberry)
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. ..... Opening Ceremony (Hemphill/Hansberry)
9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. ..... Meet and Greet (Hotel Lobby Bar)
10:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. ..... Friday Night Party -$5 (Fountain/Ludd/Jordan/Gleaton Rooms)

Saturday, February 14, 1998 (Conference)

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. ..... Morning Aerobics (Fountain/Ludd Rooms)
8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. ..... Registration (Outside Hemphill/Hansberry)
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. ..... Vendor Booths Open
9:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. ..... First Time Attendees Orientation (Jordan Room)
9:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. ..... Continental Breakfast (Outside Jordan/Gleaton Rooms)
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. ..... Opening Plenary (Hemphill/Hansberry)
10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. ..... Regional Caucuses (Workshop Rooms)
12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. ..... Donors Luncheon $50 (Chesapeake Grill)
1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. ..... Workshop Session #1 (Workshop Rooms)
3:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. ..... Workshop Session #2 (Workshop Rooms)
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. ..... Valentine's Day Dating Game (Conference Theater)
7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. ..... Awards Banquet (Hemphill/Hansberry Room)
10:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. ..... Valentine's Day Party -$15 (Fountain/Ludd/Jordan/Gleaton Rooms)

Sunday, February 15, 1998 (Conference)

7:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. ..... Registration (Outside Hemphill/Hansberry)
8:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. ..... Continental Breakfast (Outside Jordan/Gleaton Rooms)
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. ..... Vendor Booths Open
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. ..... Community Issues Forum #2 (Hemphill/Hansberry)
10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. ..... Spiritual Service (Hemphill/Hansberry)
10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. ..... Workshop Session #3 (Workshop Rooms)
12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. ..... Luncheon (Hemphill/Hansberry)
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. ..... Workshop Session #4 (Workshop Rooms)
3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. ..... Closing Session (Hemphill/Hansberry)
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. ..... Membership Meeting (Hemphill/Hansberry

NATIONAL BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY LEADERSHIP FORUM
1998 PROGRAMS

Field Program: Our National Field Program empowers black lesbigay activists by providing resources, skills, and technical assistance for local organizations to develop a proactive grassroots agenda through multi-community coalitions for black LGBT issues. Six cities are targeted for 1998.

Youth Program: Our National Youth Program will help to develop new leaders of today and tomorrow. The program targets black lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered people between the ages of 18 and 24 by providing them with leadership training, direct assistance, and community mentors. Major components of the Program include a National Youth Council with representatives from each of our nine national regions, annual scholarships to support students and community organizers, a Youth Track organized by and for young people at our Annual National Conference, and a National Mentoring Project that connects youth with positive, appropriate role models.

Media Advocacy Program: Our Media Advocacy Program introduces the public-at-large to the real lives of black lesbians and gay men. The program has successfully placed black gay-positive articles, columns, op-ed pieces, and editorials in dozens of newspapers nationwide. In its first year, the program also has helped to present black gay perspectives for stories appearing in print, radio, and television, including the New York Times, Washington Post, the San Francisco Chronicle, Out Magazine, the Washington Afro-American, Venus Magazine, CNN, C-SPAN, BET-TV, and National Public Radio.

Brother-2-Brother Program: Responding to a popular culture that transmits negative messages about African American men, the Brother-2-Brother Program instills positive, life-affirming messages in its participants. Creating a safe space for black men to explore issues of identity, sexuality, health, and masculinity, each fall this program brings together 150 men of all sexual orientations from across the nation to learn from one another. The program also includes a Washington-based biweekly men's rap group that provides a supportive outlet for black gay and bisexual men.

AIDS Prevention Team: Established in 1991, this groundbreaking program is helping to reduce the rate of HIV infection among African Americans in South Central Los Angeles, the population most at risk. The program also provides unique services to black lesbians and gay men, including treatment advocacy, HIV support groups, peer counseling, acupuncture, massage therapy, and mental health counseling.

Women's Health Program: This innovative program helps to prevent HIV transmission among black women. The program provides education and awareness presentations to women in the church and in substance abuse facilities, and hosts safer sex erotica socials for lesbian and bisexual women.

Conference Steering Committee

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Steve Walker

Regional Co-chairs
Kenyatta Dorey Graves
Jannette Williams

Conference Coordinator
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The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

salutes the

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11th Annual Conference

Embracing Ourselves, Empowering Our Communities

We look forward to seeing you at the *11th Annual Creating Change Conference*
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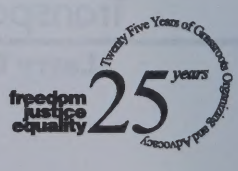

1998 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

(This schedule is subject to change without notice.)

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Registration (Outside Hemphill/Hansberry Room)

Thursday, February 12, 1998 (Health & Wellness Institute)

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Morning Aerobics by Instructor Harold Sanco (Fountain/Ludd Rooms)
7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Registration (Outside Hemphill/Hansberry)
8:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast - Free (Outside Jordan/Gleaton Rooms)

9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. **H & W Institute Opening Plenary** (Hemphill/Hansberry)
The Kickoff to the Institute features keynote addresses by Robert Penn and Dr. Andrea Sullivan, followed by an exciting, interactive Question and Answer Session with the speakers.

11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Vendor Booths Open
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Workshop Session #1 (Workshop Rooms)

Workshop	Presenter	Location
Grantwriting 101	Crystal Swann	Barbara Jordan Room
CARE Act Advocacy	H. Alexander Robinson	Thomas Gleaton Room
HIV Vaccines and the African American Community: Lab Rat or Lifesaver?	A. Toni Young	Thurlow Tibbs Room
Major Diseases for Womyn	Dr. Marilyn Gaston, Dr. Gayle K. Porter	Betty Shabazz Room

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. **Luncheon** (Hemphill/Hansberry Room)
Featuring a keynote Address by Beverly Saunders Biddle, the Executive Director of the National Lesbian and Gay Health Association.

1:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. **Workshop Session #2** (Workshop Rooms)

Workshop	Presenter	Location
Womyn's Issues Below the Waist	Dr. Michele Berkeley	Joan Fountain Room
What's Love Got to Do With It?: LGBT Domestic Violence	Crystal Weston	Gerald Ludd Room
How to Have Peace in the Valley	Kevin D. Greene	Barbara Jordan Room
Not A "Problem": (Re)conceptualizing HIV Prevention for Blacks...	Lawrence Abrams	Thomas Gleaton Room
Coalition Development: Strategizing HIV Prevention Among MSMs of Color	Donald Powell, Nguru Kurugu, Tokes Osubu	T hurlow Tibbs Room
Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired: So Many Pills, So Little Time	Phill Wilson	Betty Shabazz Room

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Workshop Session #3** (Workshop Rooms)

Workshop	Presenter	Location
Being An HIV Treatment Educator: Teachable Moments" in Health Outreach	"Shawn Hinds, Judy T. deChabert	Joan Fountain Room
Dream Therapy	Prophet George Anazia	Gerald Ludd Room
Womyn's Self-Breast Exam	D. Magrini	Barbara Jordan Room
HIV Health Maintenance: A Holistic Approach	Dr. Prem Deben	Thomas Gleaton Room
Positive Womyn Share Their Stories: Panel	Jacquie Bishop	Thurlow Tibbs Room
Let's Get Fit: A Workshop on Diet and Exercise	Yvette Moore	Betty Shabazz Room

5:15 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. **Closing Plenary** (Fountain/Ludd/Jordan/Gleaton Rooms)
Discussion facilitated by Jubi Headley

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Dinner Break (On Your Own)

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. **Celebration of Life Service** (Fountain/Ludd/Jordan/Gleaton)
Our traditional spiritual service to remember those who have passed.

9:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. **Playing Cards Tournament** (Tibbs/Shabazz Room)

Friday, February 13, 1998 (Empowerment Institute)

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. Morning Aerobics by Instructor Harold Sanco (Fountain/Ludd Rooms)

7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Registration (Outside Hemphill/Hansberry)

8:15 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. First Time Attendees Orientation (Jordan Room)
This new conference activity introduces first-timers to the Conference.

8:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast - Free (Outside Jordan/Gleaton Rooms)

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Vendor Booths Open

9:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. **Opening Plenary** (Hemphill/Hansberry)
Featuring remarks by the first black lesbian elected to national office in the country – DC's own Representative Sabrina Sojourner.

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **Workshop Session #1** (Workshop Rooms)

Workshop	Presenter	Location
Womyn's Track: Alternative Health	Cassandra Barber, facilitator	Joan Fountain Room
Men's Track: What Makes A Man?	Duncan Teague, Miles	Gerald Ludd Room
Womyn's Track: U-Haul, We Stall, Don't Call	Cheryl Reese, Margo Williams	Barbara Jordan Room
Men's Track: Advocacy and Activism	Colin Robinson, Rodney Johnson	Thomas Gleaton Room
Men's Track: Scratch-Baked CBO	Don Sneed	Thurlow Tibbs Room
Womyn's Track: Recovery from Attachments: Panel	Leigh Mosley, facilitator	Betty Shabazz Room
Transgender Issues Workshop	Dee Curry	Tyra Hunter Theater

12:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. **Luncheon Plenary** (Hemphill/Hansberry Room)
An Empowerment Luncheon with speakers from the seat of power in the federal government, including U.S. Rep. Cynthia McKinney (D-GA) and President Clinton's Asst. Atty. General for Civil Rights Bill Lann Lee.

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. **Workshop Session #2** (Workshop Rooms)

Workshop	Presenter	Location
Womyn's Track: Ain't Nobody's Business If I Do: Woman to Woman Safer Sex	Carmen Shorter	Joan Fountain Room
Men's Track: Am I Sexist 101?	Bryan E. Glover, Elias Farajaje-Jones	Gerald Ludd Room
Womyn's Track: What's Loving Yourself Got to Do With It: Internal Self Hate	Dr. Marsha Darling	Barbara Jordan Room
Men's Track: Leadership Training 201	Chris Bates, Phill Wilson,	Thomas Gleaton Room
Men's Track: Black Gay Youth Now: Mentoring	Mike Street, Richard Jones, Michael Gipson	Thurlow Tibbs Room
Womyn's Track: Domestic Violence	Deborah Sawyer	Betty Shabazz Room
Transgender Issues Workshop	Valerie Spencer	Tyra Hunter Theater

3:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	**Community Issues Forum #1** (Hemphill/Hansberry) "How Do We Embrace Ourselves and Empower Our Communities?" *A panel discussion on the state of our community, with voices of lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, gay, and other people. Panelists include George Bellinger Jr., Sonya Shields, Dee Curry, and Dr. Marjorie Hill, and will be f acilitated by Keith Boykin.*
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	**Black Gay & Lesbian Media Assn. Meeting** (Fountain Room)
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Dinner Break (On Your Own)
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Conference Opening Ceremony (Hemphill/Hansberry) Featuring amazing performances by area entertainers and a challenging keynote address by Dr. Elias Farajaje-Jones
9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	**Meet and Greet** (Hotel Lobby/Bar)
9:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	**GLBPOC Meet and Greet** (Hotel Bar)
10:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.	**Friday Night Women In the Life Party** - $5 w/conference badge (Fountain/Ludd/Jordan/Gleaton Rooms)

Saturday, February 14, 1998 (Conference)

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Morning Aerobics by Instructor Harold Sanco (Fountain/Ludd Rooms)
8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Registration (Outside Hemphill/Hansberry)
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Vendor Booths Open
9:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	First Time Attendees Orientation (Jordan Room) This new conference activity introduces first-timers to the Conference.
9:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast - Free (Outside Jordan/Gleaton Rooms)
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Opening Plenary (Hemphill/Hansberry) Keynote Address by Dr. Kofi Adoma
10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Regional Caucuses (Workshop Rooms)

Geographic Location	Board Facilitator	Location
Region 1 (ME,NH,VT,MA,CT NY, PA, NJ, DE)	Ronald Johnson Ken Reeves	Joan Fountain Room
Region2 (MD,DC,WV,VA,NC SC,PR,USVI)	Dennis Holmes Anthony McCarthy Sonya Shields	Gerald Ludd Room
Region 3 (TN,MS,AL,GA,FL)	Charlene Cothran	Barbara Jordan Room
Region 4 (MI,OH,IN,KY)	Terry Payne Michael Piper Charlotte Young	Thomas Gleaton Room
Region 5 (WI,IA,ND,SD,MN,MT)	Willa Taylor	Thurlow Tibbs Room
Region 6 (IL,MO,KS,NE)	Renae Ogletree	Betty Shabazz Room
Region 7 (TX,LA,AR,OK)	Steve Walker	Hemphill/Hansberry
Region 8 (ID,WY,CO,NM,UT,AR,NV)	Debra Rose	Hemphill/Hansberry
Region 9 (CA,OR,WA,AK,HA)	Brenda Crawford Steve Oxendine	Hemphill/Hansberry

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. **Donors Luncheon $50** (Chesapeake Grill)
The Donors Luncheon is an opportunity to support the Forum and launch its new Millennium Project, to raise $1 million by the Year 2000.

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch Break (On Your Own)

1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. **Workshop Session #1** (Workshop Rooms)

Workshop	Presenter	Location
Youth Track: Coming Out, Part 1	Michael Gipson, Jeni Wright	Joan Fountain Room
Why We BGMs Don't Date Our Friends	George Bellinger, Jr.	Gerald Ludd Room
Spirituality Track: Into the Center	Bryan E. Glover, Jennifer Cantu Smith, Maisha Uzuri James	Barbara Jordan Room
Organizers Track: Media 101: Developing and Deliver Your Message	Mark Johnson, Kelvin McNeil	Thomas Gleaton Room
Spirituality Track: Silent No More: Examining the Bible in Light of the GLBT Community	Rev. Derick B. Wilson	Thurlow Tibbs Room
Preparing for Promotion; Visioning Success	Kenneth D. Johnson	Betty Shabazz Room
Literary Track: Nurturing the Arts/ Empowering Community	G. Winston James, Tony Daniels, Duncan Teague, Malik M.L. Williams	Tyra Hunter Theater

3:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. **Workshop Session #2** (Workshop Rooms)

Workshop	Presenter	Location
Youth Track: Coming Out, Part 2	Michael Gipson, Jeni Wright	Joan Fountain Room
Men Meeting Men	Bryan Glover, Keesler King	Gerald Ludd Room
Examining Ourselves and Exploring the Identity of the Black Lesbian	Black Lesbian Support Group, Fatu Yarrow, Johanna Hardy, facilitators	Barbara Jordan Room
Organizers Track: What's Natural: Discussion of the Winans Controversiol Song	Sean Sasser	Thomas Gleaton Room
Spiritual Track: Reclaiming Our Spiritual Birthright	Rev. Robin M. Viorla	Thurlow Tibbs Room
Black LGBTs in Recovery	Edith Washington	Betty Shabazz Room
Literary Track Open Readings	James Earl Hardy, Lisa Moore	Tyra Hunter Theater

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. **Valentine's Day Dating Game** (Tyra Hunter Theater)
Join in the fun as we play our own version of The Dating Game.

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Young Adults Social (Fountain Room)
Sponsored by Howard University's Oxala and Univ. of MD B-GLAAD

7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Awards Banquet (Hemphill/Hansberry Room) Doors open - 7:15 p.m.
At this annual semi-formal gala, hosted by professional comic Karen Williams and Kenyatta Graves, the Forum will announce the recipients of eight community awards, selected by the membership.

10:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. Valentine's Semi-Formal Gala (Fountain/Ludd/Jordan/Gleaton)
Sponsored by the Black Lesbian Support Group-$15 w/conference badge

Sunday, February 15, 1998 (Conference)

7:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Registration (Outside Hemphill/Hansberry)
8:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast - Free (Outside Jordan/Gleaton Rooms)
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Vendor Booths Open
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. **Community Issues Forum #2** (Hemphill/Hansberry)
Where Do We Go From Here?
Setting Our Community's Agenda for 1998"
This community panel discussion, facilitated by Dr. Ron Simmons, will feature voices in the community of diverse ages and political beliefs to discuss what items should be on our agenda for 1998 and the years ahead. Panelists include Mandy Carter, Cleo Manago, Phill Wilson and Jeni Wright.

10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. **Spiritual Service** (Hemphill/Hansberry)

10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. **Workshop Session #3** (Workshop Rooms)

Workshop	**Presenter**	**Location**
Spirituality Track: African Americans, Homosexuals & God	Gregory J. Ford	Joan Fountain Room
Crossing Color Lines: Collaboration Between Communities of Color	Shawn Griffin	Gerald Ludd Room
Youth Track: Taking Services for At-Risk Youth Into the Future	Carl Strange	Barbara Jordan Room
Organizers Track: Grassroots Organizing Weekends	Etoy Ridgnal	Thomas Gleaton Room
Duties and Liabilities of Nonprofit Corporate Directorship	Marvin E. Prevost	Thurlow Tibbs Room
Coming Out 201 Sexual Healing & Community Transformation, Part 1	Dennis Holmes, M.D. David M. Carter & Kenneth T. Jones	Betty Shabazz Room Tyra Hunter Theater

12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. **Luncheon** (Hemphill/Hansberry)
Featuring a keynote address by Cleo Manago and a final farewell speech by outgoing Executive Director Keith Boykin.

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. **Workshop Session #4** (Workshop Rooms)

Workshop	Presenter	Location
AIDS Ministries in Traditional Church Settings	Rev. Derrick Wilson	Joan Fountain Room
Abandoning the Victim Identity– Surviving, Succeeding, and Thriving in Spite of Racism	Kenneth D. Johnson	Gerald Ludd Room
Organizers Track: Celebrating and Creating a Visible Community for Ourselves: Black Pride Events	Courtney Williams	Barbara Jordan Room
Organizers Track: Get Elected and Represent All of the People	Ken Reeves	Thomas Gleaton Room
Spirituality Track: Power of the Spirit	Dorothy Randall Gray	Thurlow Tibbs Room
Strategies for Spiritual Empowerment from Traditional African Systems	Keith Crawford	Betty Shabazz Room
Sexual Healing & Community Transformation, Part 2	David M. Carter & Kenneth T. Jones	Tyra Hunter Theater

3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Closing Session (Hemphill/Hansberry)

The Closing Session will include performances by area entertainers, the announcement of the 1999 conference, an announcement about the Forum's new Executive Director, and a rousing keynote address by The Lady Chablis, a star in the new Clint Eastwood film "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil."

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Membership Meeting (Hemphill/Hansberry)

The annual membership meeting is your opportunity to help shape the future of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum. The meeting is open to the public, but only dues-paying members may vote.

11th Annual National Black Lesbian and Gay Conference

"Embracing Ourselves, Empowering Our Communities"

NAMING OF THE ROOMS

In naming the rooms, the individuals honored reveal a depth and breadth of Black culture and tradition that is unique to the world community. These women and men provide a true testimony to a rich vein of African American historical thought and contemporary activism.

"The Naming of the Rooms" does not identify any individual on the basis of sexual orientation. Yet each of these women and men whose names grace the doors of the Crystal City Hyatt Regency are leaders who enriched our collective heritage. Their achievements, their skills, even the way they lived their lives, has enriched ours. It is to this reality that we embrace the spirit and idealism of the warriors that have gone before us and for this we dedicate all conference space.

ROOM LOCATION	ROOM NAME
Potomac 1	Joan Fountain Room
Potomac 2	Gerald Ludd Room
Potomac 3	Barbara Jordan Room
Potomac 4	Thomas Gleaton Room
Potomac 5	Thurlow Tibbs Room
Potomac 6	Betty Shabazz Room
Conference Theater	Tyra Hunter Theater
Regency Ballroom	Hemphill/Hansberry Room

The Hemphill/Hansberry Room

Essex Hemphill edited the groundbreaking anthology Brother to Brother: New Writings by Black Gay Men, picking up from the work of Joseph Beam's In The Life. Hemphill's works are featured in the films "Tongues Untied" and "Looking for Langston," and he narrated the black gay documentary "Out of the Shadows."

Lorraine Hansberry was born on the South Side of Chicago on May 19, 1930. When A Raisin in the Sun debuted at the Ethel Barrymore Theater on March 11, 1959, Hansberry, became the first black woman to have a play produced on Broadway. When the play was selected as the Best Play of the Year by the New York Drama Critics Circle, Hansberry, at 29, became the youngest American and the first black dramatist to win the award. A same-gender-loving woman, Hansberry said, "Someday I expect the 'discrete' lesbian will not turn her head on the streets at the sight of the 'butch' strolling hand in hand with her friend in their trousers and definitive haircuts."

Workshop Rooms

Joan Fountain served as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum. Joan was the author of the book, Nothing Bad Happens, Ever, in which she described her life as an incest survivor who lost 250 pounds and overcame addictions to become a successful professional trainer and top business consultant. She wrote in her book, "When you yourself are freed from the obstacles of error, ignorance, and bitterness, turn outward and free a fellow human being." She passed away July 21, 1997.

Gerald Ludd volunteered with the registration committee for the Forum's last five conferences. Even at the 10th Anniversary Conference, he wouldn't let his illness keep him down, staffing the registration table as usual, not able to work as long, but very much willing to give what time he could. He was always giving and asking very little of anyone, because that's the type of person he was.

Barbara Jordan served in the U.S. House of Representatives during one of the most crucial moments in the nation's history. She served on the Congressional Committee that investigated abuses of power by President Richard Nixon and affirmed her "absolute" faith in the Constitution. A powerful orator, Jordan spoke eloquently on several occasions at the Democratic National Convention. She passed away in January 1996.

Thomas Gleaton was a Washington, DC-based HIV/AIDS advocate. He served as Executive Director of ICAN (Inner City AIDS Network) and served as President of the DC Coalition of Black Lesbians, Gay Men, and Bisexuals. He also served as one of the co-chairs of the HIV Community Coalition. He passed away on January 1, 1998.

Thurlow Tibbs was a Washington, DC-based philanthropist for numerous causes. He was a longtime supporter of HIV/AIDS organizations, including Us Helping Us: People Into Living. Shortly before his death, he gave away a million dollars worth of African American art to the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, DC.

Dr. Betty Shabazz was a longtime warrior in the cause for civil rights and justice for all people. While working as a nurse, Dr. Betty Shabazz met and married Malcolm X in 1958. After his assassination on February 21, 1965, Dr. Shabazz raised their six daughters alone in Mount Vernon, NY. She went on to earn a doctorate in education from the University of Massachusetts in 1975. In addition, she served as director of public relations at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn and became head of the office of institutional advancement. She died June 23, 1997 from complications due to third degree burns. She was 61 years old.

Tyra Hunter was a resident of Washington, DC and the owner of a local beauty shop. When Tyra was involved in a serious car collision in August 1995, an EMS Squad member who arrived to assist her stopped treating her, stood up, and laughed out loud once he discovered Tyra was anatomically male, even though she appeared to be biologically female. After the paramedics arrived, Tyra was taken to DC General Hospital where she died of her injuries. Her family, however, was not notified of her death for several hours afterwards. Tyra's family has since filed a $10 million civil suit against the fire department. Her death underscores the continuing need to address transgender issues in our community's dialogue.

The Zora Neale Hurston Richard Wright Foundation *presents* **An Evening With**

E. Lynn Harris

Best Selling author of : And ThisToo Shall Pass, If ThisWorld Were Mine, Just As I Am, Invisible Life

Tuesday, March 17, 1998, 7:30 p.m.
Virginia Commonwealth University
Business School Auditorium
14 North Linden St., Richmond, Va.
Admission: $10.00

Benefit :Hurston/Wright Foundation

E. Lynn Harris will be interviewd by author Marita Golden and will read from his works. Book sale and signing to follow .

For more information call 804-225-4729

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The First Bi-Coastal Summer Writers Workshop

Hurston/Wright Writers Week at Virginia Commonwealth University Richmond Va. July19 - July 25, 1998

- Science Fiction **JOHN BLAIR**
- Screenwriting **ROBERT GARDNER**
- Non-fiction **PATRICE GAINES**
- Short Story **WILLIAM HENRY LEWIS**
- Novel Revision **FIANA CHEONG**
- Poetry **TIM SEIBLES**
- Self Help **DEBREENA JACKSON-GANDY**
- The Tao of the Writer's Life **MARITA GOLDEN**

Hurston/Wright Writers Week at Saint Mary's College of California July 26-August 1,1998

- Building the **Novel DAVID HAYNES**
- Non-fiction **ELMAZ ABINADER**
- Playwriting **PATTI GRIFFITH**
- Short Story **JUNOT DIAZ**
- Poetry **NIKKI FINNEY**

Small classes, individual conferences, publishing presentation by agents, public readings by participants and workshop leaders.

Hurston/Wright Writers Week at V.C.U.
Robin Dunn, Director
P.O.Box 842005 Richmond, Va. 23284-2005
(804)-225-4729 rldunn@vcu.edu

Hurston/Wright Writers Week at Saint Mary's
Diem Jones, Director
P.O. Box 4686 Moraga, Ca. 944575-4686
(510)-631-4088 writers@stmarys-ca.edu

http://www.has.vcu.edu/eng/znh/

USCM HIV/AIDS PROGRAM

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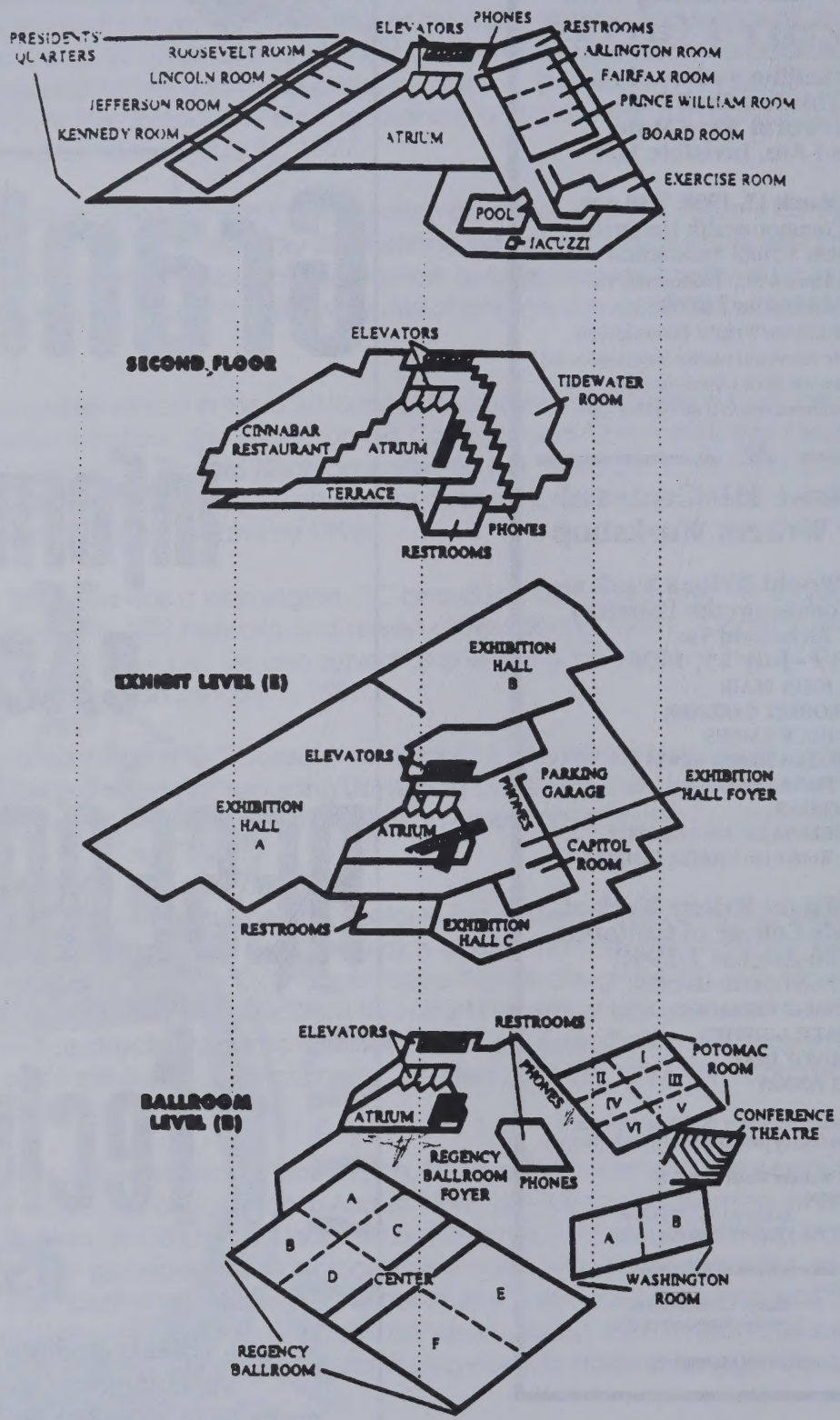
technical assistance

1620 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006
phone (202) 293-7330 fax (202) 293-2352
www.usmayors.org/uscm

A member of the National Minority AIDS Council

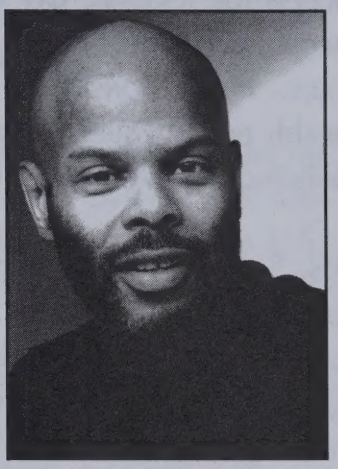
Hyatt Regency Crystal City Map



♿ ALL MEETING AREAS, RESTOOMS AND PHONES ARE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE EXCEPT THE CONFERENCE THEATRE.

OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Robert Penn



Robert E. Penn is a community organizer, educator, author, consultant, and survivor. He lectures and conducts trainings across the U.S. and in Europe and South America. His subjects include health and wellness, heterosexism, racism, homophobia, safer sex, living well with HIV and the design of culturally appropriate public health and disease prevention programs.

His self-help book entitled The Gay Men's Wellness Guide, The National Lesbian and Gay Health Association's Complete Book of Physical, Emotional, and Mental Health and Well-Being for Every Gay Male was published by Henry Holt and Company, Incorporated in January, 1998 and is currently available at bookstores across North America. In addition, his poetry and prose appears in SHADE, We Are Everywhere, Milking Black Bull, SOJOURNER, and The Road Before Us.

Robert managed the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) HIV Prevention programs for more than five years as Assistant Director, HIV Prevention (October 1990 to January 1996). He more recently served as Interim Executive Director of Gay Men of African Descent during the second quarter of 1997.

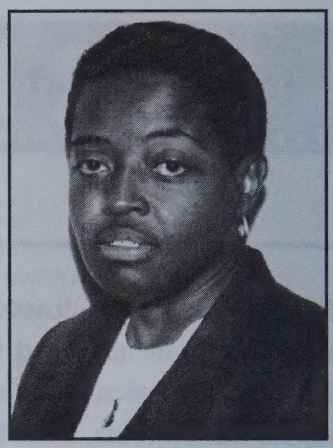
Andrea Sullivan

Andrea Sullivan received an N.D. (Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine) degree from the Bastyr College of Natural Health Science in Seattle, Washington in 1986. Following graduation, Dr. Sullivan completed 180 post-graduate hours in homeopathy through the International Foundation of Homeopathy in Seattle, Washington. In addition, she completed a two-year internship in Tacoma, Washington, and seminar study in Greece under world-renowned homeopath George Vithoulkas.

In 1976, Dr. Sullivan received a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in sociology/criminology. She later taught at American University, Howard University, and the University of Maryland.

Dr. Sullivan is a founding member of the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians and serves as the president of the D.C. Association of Naturopathic Physicians. She is also a member of the International Foundation of Homeopathy, the Homeopathic Academy of Naturopathic Physicians, and the National Center for Homeopathy.

Beverly Saunders Biddle, MHA



Beverly Saunders Biddle, MHA is a nationally recognized advocate of equal access for lesbians, gay men, bisexual and transgendered individuals and people living with and at risk for HIV to sensitive and competent health care. Her demonstrated leadership has been on national lesbian and gay health policy issues, including provider education, lesbian health, clinic building, HIV/AIDS and LGBT health education.

Ms. Saunders Biddle is currently the Executive Director of the National Lesbian and Gay Health Association (NLGHA). NLGHA is a network of LGBT health professionals and allies, and health care organizations, including the eleven lesbian and gay health centers, which provide primary health and mental health care to LGBT communities and to people living with HIV/AIDS. The Association is dedicated to improving the quality of health and health care for all members of so-called "sexual minority" communities. She joined NLGHA after she served three years as the Lesbian Health Clinic Coordinator at the Whitman-Walker Clinic in Washington, D.C.

She has 20 years of health management, education and advocacy experience with health and mental health facilities in Washington, DC and New York City. In addition, she earned a Master's degree in Health Administration from the Medical College of Virginia in 1984.

The Honorable Sabrina Sojourner

U. S. Representative for the District of Columbia, Sabrina Sojourner is a nationally noted feminist writer and speaker. She has used her experience to organize grassroots campaigns in support of the passage of national and local legislation on hate crimes, lesbians and gay men in the military, civil rights, higher education, and family violence.

Rep. Sojourner uses her skills to build alliances and coalitions in support of full federal representation and autonomy for the citizens of the District of Columbia. Since taking office, Rep. Sojourner has traveled to over 30 communities to educate other American citizens about the inequities faced by the residents of the District of Columbia. She connects D.C.'s struggle for full federal representation and autonomy with other human and civil rights issues being fought in this country.

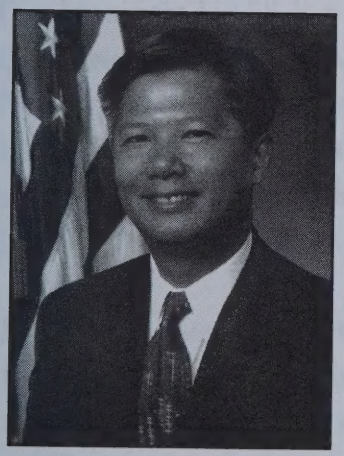
Rep. Sojourner continues to work as an organizational development and management consultant, a writer, and lecturer while living in the Brookland neighborhood of Washington, D.C. with her life partner, Letitia Gomez.

U.S. Rep. Cynthia McKinney

Cynthia Ann McKinney, the United States Representative from Georgia's 4th District, became that state's first African-American Congresswoman after her landslide election victory in November 1992.

The 4th District encompasses DeKalb and Gwinnett Counties, among the suburbs of Atlanta. Stone Mountain, once the home of Georgia's Ku Klux Klan, is now the heart of this new district born as a result of recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions challenging the validity of the Voting Rights Act.

Congresswoman McKinney was recently appointed to the National Security Committee. She is the only Democrat from Georgia on that committee. Rep. McKinney is also a member of the International Relations Committee, serving on its International Operations and Human Rights Subcommittee.



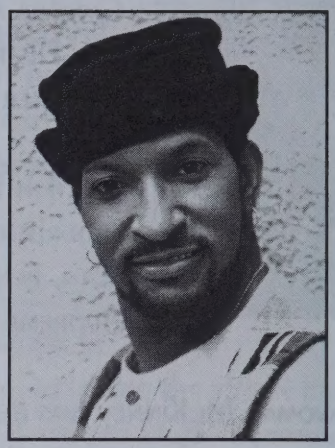
Bill Lann Lee

Bill Lann Lee is the Acting Attorney General for Civil Rights at the United States Department of Justice. Mr. Lee was appointed to this position by President Clinton on December 15, 1997. Mr. Lee is one of the country's leading civil rights attorneys, with a long and distinguished history of defending the rights of all Americans.

Before his appointment at the Department of Justice, Mr. Lee lived in Los Angeles and served as Western Regional Counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF), the civil rights law firm founded by the late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

Born and raised in New York City, Mr. Lee's parents owned a small laundry. He credits his late father, who experienced bigotry despite his proud military service to his country, with providing the inspiration for a career in civil rights law. After graduating from Bronx High School of Science, Mr. Lee won a scholarship to Yale University, where he benefited from an affirmative action program to include minority students. Through his hard work, Lee graduated Phi Beta Kappa, magna cum laude in 1971. Mr. Lee graduated from Columbia University Law School in 1974.

George Bellinger, Jr.



George Bellinger, Jr. is proud to be at the 11th annual National Black Lesbian and Gay Conference. The NBLGLF is one of many organizations that Mr. Bellinger holds dear, including Gay Men of African Descent, Other Countries, Lavender Light Gospel Choir and several AIDS organizations throughout the country. He is currently working as a consultant specializing in working with non-profit organizations. Mr. Bellinger has worked extensively within the HIV/AIDS industry since 1982, all over the country and internationally. A talented, engaging and dynamic facilitator, he is often asked to develop workshops and lead discussions on some of the more sensitive issues like co-gender organizing and HIV/AIDS.

He has been involved in "movement" work for many years and hopes that his presence and resources have inspired many. An advocate of a "sex-positive" community, Mr. Bellinger has worked on a national committee to examine the efficacy of an AIDS vaccine.

George, a sensitive, caring and introspective Cancerian, has long been a supporter of the NBLGLF and credits the Forum for providing a space to help hone his skills as a facilitator. He is also one of the five people who has attended every Forum conference. He would like to thank all those who continue to support him and especially that gem that continues to shine in his life.

Dee Curry

Dee Curry is a 42 year old native Washingtonian and member of the Metropolitan Washington HIV Planning and Prevention Council.

Although she has always been outspoken and a supporter of the needs of the underrepresented, her activism began during the 1994 Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day. She feels that through a united effort of the gay, lesbian, and transgendered activism, that "we can set the world on its ear, as well as eradicate the spread of AIDS in our communities."

Dr. Marjorie J. Hill

Dr. Marjorie J. Hill is a Commissioner for the New York State Workers' Compensation Board. As one of thirteen Commissioners for the State of New York, Commissioner Hill's responsibilities include conducting appeal hearings throughout the state, issuance of licenses to firms and individuals seeking to represent claimants and promulgating rules to supplement provisions of the Workers' Compensation Law.

Dr. Hill has served as Assistant Vice President for Special Populations at the New York City Health and Hospital Corporation and as Director of the Mayor's Office for the Lesbian and Gay Community where she instituted initiatives in health, public safety and city wide equal opportunity employment.

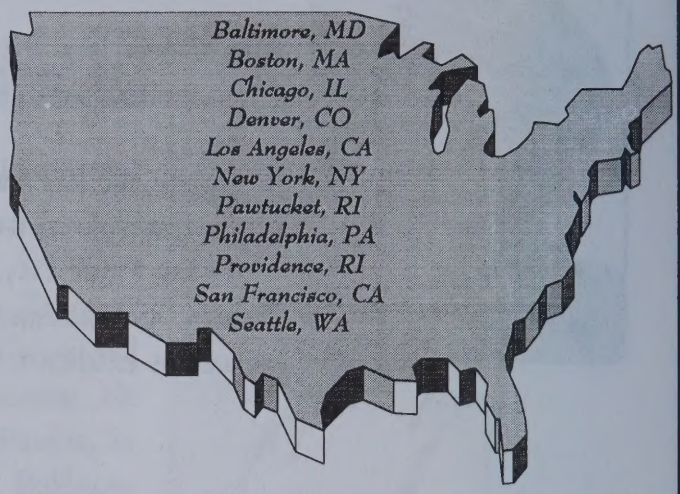
Dr. Hill is a Commissioner for the Black Leadership on AIDS, a founding member of the Manhattan chapter of 100 Black Women and an executive committee member on the Board on the Gay Men's Health Crisis. Dr. Hill is particularly proud to be a Trustee at Unity at Fellowship Church and to serve as the national president for the Unity Movement. Dr. Hill is firmly committed to organizing for progressive social change inclusive of the eradication of all forms of oppression.

HIVNET

HIV NETWORK FOR PREVENTION TRIALS

Studying Effective Ways to Prevent HIV & AIDS

- HIV vaccines
- topical microbicides
- interventions to reduce high risk behaviors
- treatment of sexually transmitted diseases



HIVNET was established in 1993 by the Division of AIDS (DAIDS) of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) to conduct domestic and international multi-center trials to evaluate the safety and efficacy of promising interventions to prevent HIV transmission. In these trials, the primary outcome will be the effect of the intervention on reducing the number of new infections with HIV. As promising candidate vaccines become available for large-scale trials, these will be HIVNET's highest priority.

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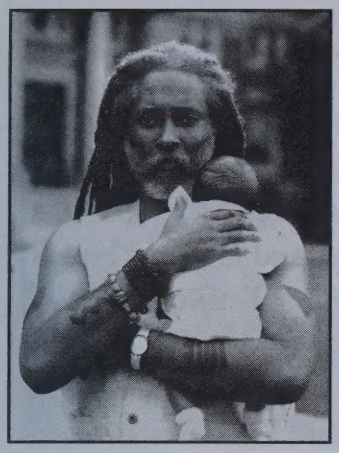


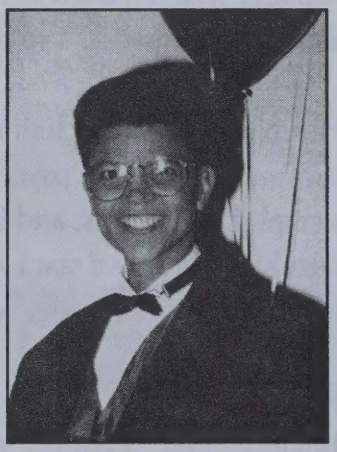
Dr. Elias Farajaje-Jones

Dr. Elias Farajaje-Jones, a queer-identified bisexual man, is currently professor of Cultural Studies at the Starr King School of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. He is also a tenured associate professor of History of Religions and Sociology of Religion at the Howard University School of Divinity. At Howard, he was one of the founding members and the official faculty advisor to Oshala, Howard's gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender group.

Winner of many awards, he was recently named as a member of the Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians, the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a theologian of color in his/her lifetime. He is the only "out" queer in the association and is the first ever to be so honored.

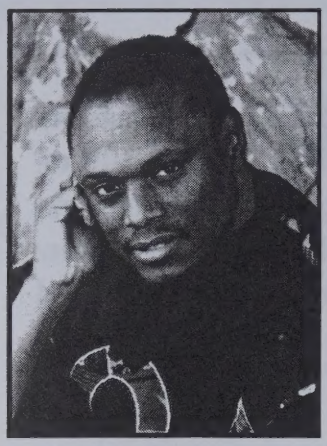
An outspoken pioneer in the area of HIV/AIDS and Black religious communities, he is the author of In Search of Zion , a study of the significance of Afrika for three Black religious movements, and co-editor of African Creative Expressions Of The Divine: Afrikan religions in diaspora. He is currently finishing a book, Silent Tears, that deals with HIV/AIDS, heterosexism, erotophobia, and Black religious communities.

Dr. Kofi Adoma



Kofi Adoma, Ph.D. is a native Detroiter who recently graduated from the University of Michigan with her doctoral degree in clinical psychology. She has been active in grassroots organizing since her high school years. After having "come out" to herself, she became co-founder of Family, The Detroit Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, The James Baldwin-Pat Parker Society, The A. Lorde Collective, The Ujamaa Investment Club, and The Karibu House Planning Committee (an effort to start a lgbt people of color community center in Detroit).

Kofi serves on the HOPE grant committee which funds lgbt organizations throughout Michigan and is a mentor to a 19 year old through the Affirmations Youth Mentorship Program. She is a board member and secretary at Full Truth Unity Fellowship Church and sings tenor in the choir. Although she lives in Detroit, she has a membership in ULOAH and attends the annual Sistahfest and Nia gatherings. In addition, she has attended every Leadership Forum conference.



Cleo Manago

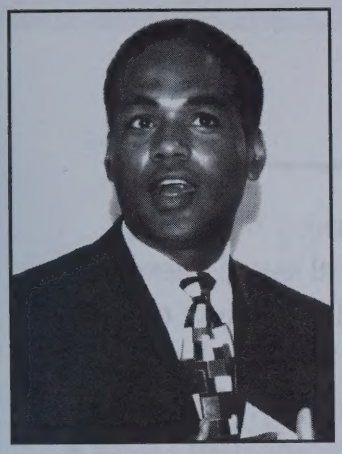
Cleo Manago has always worked in and for the Black community. A native of South Central Los Angeles, where at age 16 he began a vocation in social services --his heart, spirit, and soul has always been grounded in a deep conviction for empowering the Black collective and evolving human consciousness. Manago remains true to his original vision, having conceived and developed two popular agencies in the State of California - the AMASSI Health, Wellness and Cultural Affirmation Center, one of L.A.'s predominantly Black communities where he is also Chief Executive Officer, and AMASSI Incorporated in Oakland.

Karen Williams

Karen Williams is a professional comedienne of national note and internationl acclaim. Affectionately known as the Diva of Comedy and the Queen of Improv, Ms. Williams is recognized as comic craftmaster, a multi-talented writer and actress, and a committed artist of the highest caliber.

Her background includes over twenty years of improvisational comedy and theatre techniques, psychodrama, dance and movement, active parenting, metaphysical studies, and Buddhist practice. Ms. Williams has made numerous television, film, and stage appearances, and her humor writings are presently included in over twelve anthologies.

Karen Williams is the creator and facilitator of Humor-at-Large Workshop Series, founder of the International Institute of Humor and Healing Arts (HaHA) and the National Women's Comedy Conference, and past president of the Association of Women's Music and Culture. Her Humor workshops are specifically designed to build self-confidence and promote self-esteem.



Phill Wilson

As co-founder of the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum, Phill Wilson is one of the nation's well known Black gay activist leaders. His work as a founder of almost a dozen organizations has greatly advanced the fights against AIDS and for lesbian and gay equality. Phill is former Director of Policy and Planning at AIDS Project Los Angeles. Under his leadership, the department firmly established its reputation as a leading player in drafting legislation and advocating to increase public services for people with HIV/AIDS.

Previously, Phill was the AIDS Coordinator of the City of Los Angeles, appointed by Mayor Tom Bradley to implement, monitor, and supervise AIDS policy in the country's second largest city. Born and raised in Chicago, Phill holds B.A. and B.F.A. degrees from Illinois Wesleyan University.

Mandy Carter

Mandy Carter, 49, is one of the nation's leading African American lesbian activist. She has worked in grassroots organizing for the last 30 years in almost every major geographical region in the country.

Mandy is the Field Director for the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum. Most recently (August - October 1997), Mandy was on special assignment from the Forum and was Program Director for Equal Partners in Faith, a multi-racial grassroot coalition of people of faith committed to equality and diversity, that coordinated a DC-Metro area response to the Promise Keeper's "Stand in the Gap: A Sacred Assembly of Men " October 4th rally held on the Mall in Washington, DC.

Prior to her appointment as Field Director for the Forum, Ms. Carter was Director of North Carolina Mobilization '96, a political action committee that mobilized North Carolina's lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender and allies voters, volunteers and money to try to defeat Jesse Helms who was up for re-election.

With awards from many human rights and community organizations to acknowledge her achievements, Ms. Carter currently sits on the Boards of Ladyslipper Music, Inc., North Carolina NOW PAC, National NOW Lesbian Rights Committee and most recently was added to the Advisory Committee of the National Lesbian PAC and named an Associate with Political Research Associates.

Mandy makes her home in Durham, North Carolina.

Lady Chablis

Once upon a time, in the rural confinements of Quincy, Florida, a woman gave birth to a little baby girl named Brenda Dale Knox. But mind you, this was no ordinary little girl. Brenda was a little white girl trapped in a little black girl's body -- or little black boy's, rather. Suddenly, the name Brenda was no longer befiting of such a grande dame, and the former skin was shed to become The Lady Chablis, enabling her to assume her roles as the "Grande Empress", as well as the president of S.L.U.W.W. -- (Savannah League of Uptown White Women.

A media attraction for the past several months, Chablis has left the country in stitches, having been the focus of articles in "USA Today," "Time," and "People", as well as such talk shows as "Oprah," "Today" and "Good Morning America." Most recently, the Southern comedienne set the screen ablaze in the Clint Eastwood directed movie of John Berendt's novel, "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil."

In July, The Lady Chablis released her tell-all autobiography "Hiding My Candy" and devotes much time to charities such as the Starlight "Make a Wish" Foundation and the Savannah Pediatric AIDS Center of the Phoenix Project House.

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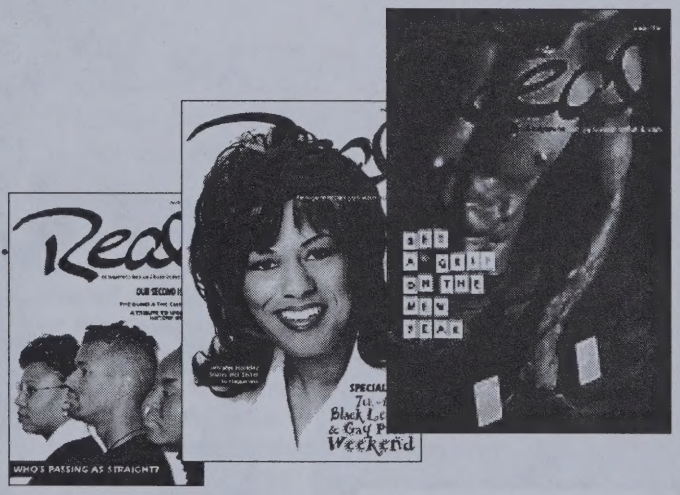

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The Mary-Helen Mautner Project for Lesbians with Cancer, a volunteer organization dedicated to helping lesbians with cancer, their partners, and their caregivers, has grant money available for local community projects to provide outreach and education about lesbians and breast cancer. Call The Mautner Project at 202-332-5536 for an application.

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SOULFORCE

Greetings to our Sisters & Brothers at the 1998 National Black Lesbian & Gay Conference

During his early years in South Africa, Gandhi was deeply moved by "The Sermon on the Mount." Determined to reduce "principles into practice," he created satyagraha ("soul force"): a plan of action for the development of our inner lives and for the transformation of society. Dr. King used Gandhi's principles to shape his own nonviolent civil rights movement in America.

I am convinced that we need to rediscover and apply their "soul force" rules in our own efforts to achieve justice for God's lesbian and gay children. If you are interested in receiving our complimentary Soulforce newsletter and/or in joining us on this journey to rediscover and apply Gandhi and King in the life of our g/l/b/t community, just let us know...

Mel White
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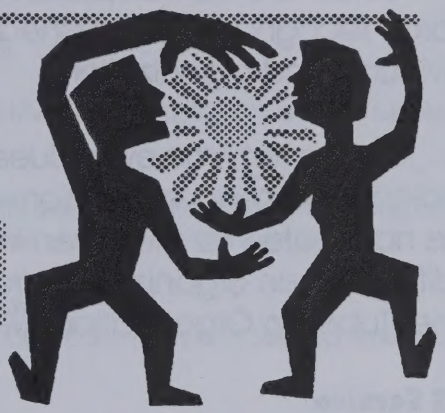

Dr. Marjorie Hill, *and* **Phill Wilson,**
have been confirmed as our keynote speakers.

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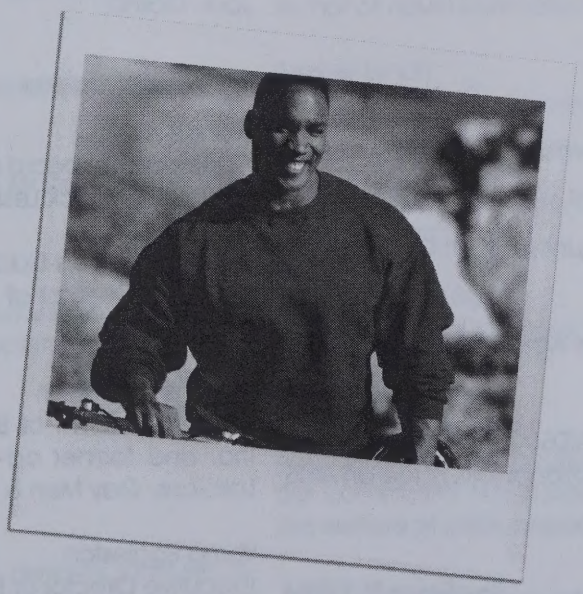

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1998 LEADERSHIP FORUM AWARD NOMINEES

Below are the nominees for the 1998 National Black Lesbian and Gay Awards. The awards recognize distinguished service to the black lesbian and gay community by individuals and organizations.

For the first time ever, dues-paying members of the Forum decided the final award recipients by voting in a nationwide membership poll. Twenty-four women and 23 men were nominated for the seven individual categories in this year's awards presentation. In addition, seven organizations from New York to California have been nominated for the Harriet Tubman Organization Award.

AIDS Service

Frederick Garnett Award
Awarded to someone who through her/his volunteerism and other work has made life-saving and life-affirming contributions to AIDS/Health Care education, prevention and wellness.

1997 Recipient

George Bellinger, Jr.

1998 Nominees

Jacquie Bishop
NY-based activist and writer, involved in HIV/AIDS issues

Mark Briggs
Staff member of WATTS Community Health Center in LA

Greg Hutchings
Prevention Coordinator for DC's Agency for HIV/AIDS

H. Alexander Robinson
Member of President Clinton's AIDS Advisory Council and President of the Board of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention

Pernessa Seale
Executive Director of Balm in Gilead, a faith-based AIDS organization in NY

Craig Washington
Staff member of AID Atlanta and active in "Second Sunday" men's group

Lesbian Service

Mabel Hampton Award
Awarded to a lesbian of African descent for outstanding contributions to the lesbian community.

1997 Recipient

Joan Garner

1998 Nominees

Wanda Alston
Candidate for board of NOW and former co-chair of DC Coalition of Black Lesbians, Gay Men & Bisexuals

Beverly Saunders-Biddle
Executive Director of National Lesbian and Gay Health Association

Carlene Cheatam
Former President of Black Lesbian and Gay Pride Day, Inc. and former co-chair of D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians, Gay Men & Bisexuals

Verna Eggleston
Executive Director of Hetrick-Martin Institute in NY

Continued on next page

Award Nominees Continued

Sheila Reid
Publisher of Women in the Life, a monthly black lesbian publication in DC

Literature/Arts Awards

Audre Lorde Award
Awarded to a lesbian of African descent involved in writing, performing and/or the visual arts who through her work projects positive images and/or messages about our community.

1997 Recipient

Jacqueline Woodson

1998 Nominees

Cheryl Clarke
Published writer and poet and popular lecturer

Erica Doyle
Winner of DC's Larry Neal Award for poetry and conducts writing workshops for black lesbians

Katherine McKinley
Editor of the black lesbian anthology, Afrekete

Sapphire
Author of the novel PUSH and of American Dreams

Barbara Smith
Co-founder of Kitchen Table: Women of Color press

Linda Villarosa
Former executive editor of Essence Magazine, now with the New York Times

Karen Williams
Professional comic, founder of International Institute of Humor and Healing (HaHa), and published in more than 12 anthologies

Shay Youngblood
Author of the novel Soul Kiss

James Baldwin Award
Awarded to a gay man of African descent involved in writing, performing and/or the visual arts who through his work projects positive images and/or messages about our community.

1997 Recipient

Brian Freeman

1998 Nominees
Don Belton
Editor of Speak My Name: Black Men on Masculinity

Thomas Glave
Short fiction writer published in Callaloo and Children of the Night, and recipient of The O. Henry Award

James Earl Hardy
Best-selling author of B Boy Blues and Second Time Around

E. Lynn Harris
Best selling author of Invisible Life and And This Too Shall Pass and ranked on NY Times best-seller list

Brian Keith Jackson
Author of The View From Here

Randall Kenan
Author of Let the Dead Bury Their Dead

John Keene
Author of novel Annotations

Aubrey Lynch
Former Alvin Ailey dancer, now dancing with "The Lion King"

Bruce Morrow & Charles Rowell
Editors of Shade

Shawn Stewart Ruff
Editor of Go the Way Your Blood Beats

Organization
Harriet Tubman Award
Awarded to an organization that by providing services to our community has made a significant contribution to the welfare of lesbians and gay men of African descent.

1997 Recipient

UNITY, Inc. of Philadelphia

Continued on next page

Award Nominees Continued

1998 Nominees

AMASSI Center of Oakland
Oakland/San Francisco Bay Area organization that affirms same-gender-loving Black people in a black community context

ADODI
Philadelphia organization that plans and conducts annual men's retreats in Pennsylvania.

Black Lesbian & Gay Pride Day, Inc.
Organizes annual National Black and Gay Pride Memorial Day Weekend in Washington, DC.

Gay Men of African Descent (GMAD)
NY activism, education, AIDS organization for black gay men

National Body of Black Men's Xchange
Empowerment organization for same-gender-loving Black men

NIA Collective
Oakland group that organizes annual retreat for black lesbians in a safe spiritually-centered space.

ULOAH
United Lesbians of African Heritage organizes annual women's retreat and community outreach activities

Political Activism

Bayard Rustin Award
Awarded to a lesbian or gay man of African descent who through her/his involvement in the political process or political organizing has advanced the interest and issues of our communities.

1997 Recipient

Rev. David Lewis

1998 Nominees

Sherry Harris
Former Seattle City Council member

Pat Hussain
Atlanta activist and organizer who helped lead successful effort to keep 1996 Summer Olympics out of homophobic Cobb County, Georgia

Sky Johnson
Director of Public Policy at Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center

Nadine Smith
Tampa, Florida gay rights organizer and former co-chair of 1993 March on Washington

Hon. Sabrina Sojourner
Longtime activist and the nation's only open lesbian elected to US House of Representatives (shadow seat for District of Columbia).

Hon. Keith St.-John
Alderman in Albany, NY

Spirituality
Bishop Carl Bean Spirituality Award
Awarded to a lesbian or gay man of African descent for outstanding contributions to the spiritual growth and empowerment of the lesbian and gay community.

1997 Recipient

Revs. Alma Faith Crawford
& Karen Hutt

Continued on next page

Award Nominees Continued

1998 Nominees

Rev. Rainey Cheeks
Pastor of Inner Light Unity Fellowship Church, DC

Dr. Elias Farajaje-Jones
Professor of Theology and author of several books

Rev. Darlene Garner
Pastor of MCC North Virginia

Rev. Peter Gomes
Author of The Good Book and Harvard chaplain

Rev. Phil Matthews
Associate Pastor of MCC DC

Rev. Carolyn Mobley
Associate Pastor of MCC Houston

Rev. Irene Monroe
Lecturer and Harvard doctoral candidate

Youth Advocate

Joan Fountain Award
This award of merit recognizes an openly lesbian or gay young adult (age 25 and under) for outstanding leadership in organizing, educating and advocating for her or his community. This new award will be inaugurated at the 1998 Conference.

1998 Nominees

Mike Gipson
Former organizer for HRC; assisted Leadership Forum Youth Program

Leniere Miley
Youth HIV/AIDS activist in New York City for GMHC

Tiffani St. Cloud
While attending Whitney Young High School in Chicago, she came out in the student newspaper her senior year

Mike Street
Organized first black lesbian and gay student organization (BGLAAD) at the University of Maryland

Jeni Wright
Wrote letter to DC radio station that stopped Angie and Debbie Winans song from playing.

THE NATIONAL BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY LEADERSHIP FORUM AND
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THE UNDERGROUND STATION

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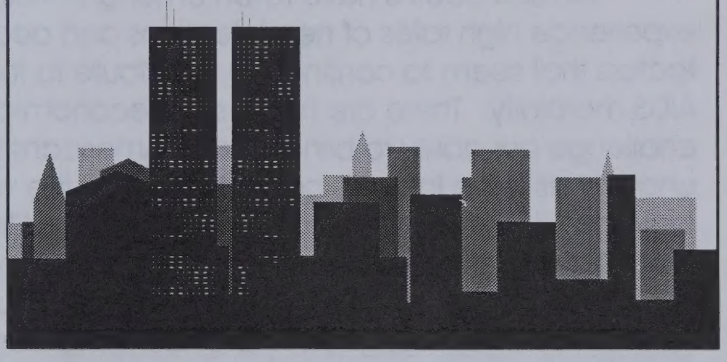

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Health and Wellness Institute

Session #1

Grant Writing 101

Crystal Swann
Barbara Jordan Room

This workshop will provide information for those involved in writing grants. The "how to" format will walk individuals through the grant writing process including formulating a vision into program goals and objectives, work plan, staffing plan, and budget development. There will be a review of common errors made in submitting grants and ways to avoid these mistakes. Finally, the workshop will explore ways to find and research different funding opportunities with particular emphasis on the need to diversify your grant writing to include both government and corporate foundation support.

CARE Act Advocacy

H. Alexander Robinson
Thomas Gleaton Room

As AIDS deaths have fallen among whites, African Americans have continued to experience high rates of new infections and deaths from HIV disease. There are several factors that seem to continue to contribute to the growing racial disparity in cases of AIDS and AIDS morbidity. There are many socioeconomic, cultural and educational issues that challenge our ability to bring African Americans into the health care system. Among these challenges is the lack of knowledge about the various AIDS care programs that have been developed to serve those in need. The Ryan White CARE Act provides us, as African Americans, one of the most significant opportunities to participate in the development and design of HIV health care programs to expand access to our community. This program session has been designed to provide participants with an understanding of the history of the CARE Act, to review the current legislative and public health challenges that CARE Act advocates and providers are facing, and to identify ways to expand African American gay and lesbian participation at all levels of CARE Act advocacy, programming, planning and implementation.

Preventative HIV Vaccines and the African American Community: Lab Rat or Lifesaver?

A. Toni Young
Thurlow Tibbs Room

An interactive discussion of the implications surrounding the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) HIV Network of Prevention Trails (HIVNET) Vaccine Preparedness Study and community implications. HIVNET a flexible multi center established in

1993 to carry out HIV prevention and intervention efficacy trials currently has sites in Boston, Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, Denver, San Francisco, Baltimore, and Seattle. HIVNET sites are currently conducting Phase II research on vaccine efficacy with a vast array of Social Harm Issues, using NIAID developed slides entitled Social Harm. A discussion regarding the use and harm vaccines int eh African American community Social Harm issues to be discussed include vaccine-induced seropositivity (testing positive on a standard HIV test due to the vaccine) which may lead to discrimination in the areas of health and life insurance, international travel, and some forms of government employment (Job Corps and Peace Corps).

Major Diseases for Womyn

Dr. Marilyn Gaston, Dr. Gayle K. Porter
Betty Shabazz Room

Workshop Session #2

Womyn's Issues Below the Waist

Dr. Michele Berkeley
Joan Fountain Room

"What's Love Got to Do With It?:" LGBT Domestic Violence

Crystal Weston
Gerald Ludd Room

This workshop is for anyone who wants to learn more about domestic violence and how it manifests itself in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities. Whether you are a service provider, recovering batterer, survivor, or an individual who suspects that someone you care about is being abused, come to this workshop for a deeper understanding of domestic violence, the policies and laws that govern it, the similarities to and differences from heterosexual relationships, and strategies on how to intervene.

How to Have Peace in the Valley

Kevin D. Greene
Barbara Jordan Room

How to Have Peace in the Valley is a combined class of Yoga Stretches and Qi Gong exercises and theories. Yoga is defined for the purposes of this workshop as a series of easy

"Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced."

-- *James Baldwin*

Dare to be powerful.

The National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum

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stretches and postures and mental focus, that when combined with proper breathing techniques promote a feeling of ease in the body, release of tension and an increased improvement of immune function. This combination of classes has had great positive impact on the lives of people living with HIV.

Not A "Problem": (Re)conceptualizing HIV Prevention for Black Gay and Black Non-Gay Identified Homosexually Active Men in the 90's

Lawrence Abrams

Thomas Gleaton Room

What are the HIV Prevention needs for Black gay and non-gay identified homosexually active men? Are the prevention needs of younger Black men different from those of older men? How have Protease Inhibitors complicated prevention efforts targeting Black men? Has the media presentation that "AIDS is over" hindered prevention efforts? The goal of this workshop is to explore the way the shifting terrain of the HIV pandemic has complicated HIV prevention efforts targeting gay men and non-gay identified homosexually active men. The workshop will summarize current HIV prevention thinking on gay men— both locally and internationally— an offer practical ways these theories can be used to support program development. The workshop will reflect the latest thinking on HIV Prevention that has been used to re-conceptualize Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) HIV Prevention Department's efforts targeting diverse communities of gay identified and non-gay identified prevention peer program, Beyond 2000 (b.2K), has been ways to involve gay men not as "problems," but as partners and active agents in supporting one another in staying HIV negative into the next millennium.

Coalition Development: Strategizing HIV Prevention Among MSMs of Color

Donald Powell, Nguru Kurugu, Tokes Osubu

Thurlow Tibbs Room

Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired: So Many Pills, So Little Time

Phill Wilson

Betty Shabazz Room

The new advances in treatment of HIV and AIDS have brought about new hope and optimism for people living with the disease. Unfortunately, the new regiments are complicated and often difficult to follow. This workshop will analyze the issues of adherence and present new strategies and tools to help those living with HIV better adhere to the new regiments and those caring/counseling people with HIV to better help them.

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Being an HIV Treatment Educator: "Teachable Moments" in Health Outreach

Shawn Hinds, Judy T. de Chabert
Joan Fountain Room

Seventeen years in to the U.S. AIDS epidemic, we look for HIV counseling, education and prevention to reflect recent advances in HIV treatment. Health care providers may know that HIV isn't necessarily a death sentence, but we can't assume that the benefits of early intervention and the latest about new HIV medications have reached black lesbian, gay and bisexual men. Man y of us know and can share much about recent prevention methods, but many could benefit from increased skills in linking HIV treatment information to outreach interventions. Some define outreach as "the gradual consistent penetration of networks of the target groups of people in need over time;" we can and must identify teachable moments in this gradual process. (One such moment when a client or friend is thinking about the HIV test). Skilled, sensitive, and knowledgeable outreach workers can use HIV treatment information to address individuals' fears about considering their risk of infection or knowing their serostatus.

Dream Therapy

Prophet George Anazia
Gerald Ludd Room

Womyn's Self-Breast Exam

D Magrini
Barbara Jordan Room

This discussion will center around the importance of early breast cancer detection through the use of breast self exam, clinical breast exam, and mammography. At the end of this session, participants will understand and discuss the importance of the current methods of breast cancer screening and be able to correctly perform breast self exam. Additionally, participants will be aware of barriers to adequate and affordable access to health care and begin to form strategies to overcome them, as well as, have an overview of ways womyn can impact their health in positive ways.

HIV Health Maintenance: A Holistic Approach

Dr. Prem Deben
Thomas Gleaton Room

In this workshop participants will be presented with several strategies to undertake a holistic approach to maintaining their health while living with HIV disease by herbalist Dr. Prem Deben. Topics discussed will include methods of internal cleansing, as well as an overview of nutrition and the uses of vitamins, minerals and herbs.

Positive Womyn Share Their Stories

Jacquie Bishop
Thurlow Tibbs Room

Let's Get Fit: A workshop on Diet and Exercise

Yvette Moore
Betty Shabazz Room

Empowerment Institute
Workshop Session #1

Womyn's Track: Alternative Health

Cassandra Barber, Facilitator
Joan Fountain Room

Men's Track: What Makes A Man?

Duncan Teague, Miles
Gerald Ludd Room

This interactive session will explore cultural, sexual, and societal influences that impact gay men of African descent in addressing issues, causes, and effects and how they interact with one another, lesbians, the black communities and the larger gay/lesbian/bisexual/ transgender populations.

Womyn's Track: U-Haul, We Stall, Don't Call

Cheryl D. Reese, M.H.S., LPC, Margo L. William, M.H.S., LPC
Barbara Jordan Room

Margo and Cheryl are co-principals in EDUCARE Systems, Inc. an innovative Holistic Training and Healing center dedicated to Peace, Love and a world filled with Light. This workshop introduces participants to the stages and phases of relationship building. Beginning with the first "glance" you are led through the courtship and partnering including the stumbling blocks and romance. The workshop also: introduces communication skill building; intimacy; problem solving; breaking up and Friendship.

Men's Track: Advocacy and Activism

Colin Robinson, Rodney Johnson

Thomas Gleaton Room

This didactic and interactive discussion will focus on the differences between these two words, when each is most appropriate and when a person moves from one to the other. It will also explore some of the personal, professional, and social issues related to each, within our community.

Men's Track: A Scratch Baked CBO or, How to create a community based organization by and for African American Gay, Bisexual, MSM and Transgender men— from "day one" to "first funding"

Don Sneed

Thurlow Tibbs Room

This workshop will provide information, materials and strategies for individuals and/or groups whoa re interested, willing, and committed to creating a community based organization that will provide HIV/AIDS services to African American gay, bisexual, MSM and transgender men; especially in the South. The primary focus of this workshop will be the detailing of the Renaissance III, Inc., a model of creating a CBO by and for the aforementioned populations where none exists or where the needs of the population outweigh the capacity of currently established CBOs to meet them.

Womyn's Track: Recovery from Attachments

Leigh Moseley, Facilitator

Betty Shabazz Room

Womyn in the community will share who they are and what occurred in their lives to stop the cycle of attachments to various addictions. These very personal heart stories are from womyn who have chosen to live life differently today.

Transgender Issues

Dee Curry

Tyra Hunter Theater

Transgenders represent an extremely under served at-risk population for HIV. This community includes gays, lesbian, bisexuals and heterosexuals. Therefore, they cannot be categorized and placed in traditional AIDS prevention models. Many transgenders hide themselves within perceived norms to receive services, resulting in inaccurate data for conducting needs assessments. In many cases, transgender-specific prevention planning efforts are useless. The HIV Community Coalition (HCC) sponsors a transgender caucus (TADD), encouraging transgenders to become more than tokens in prevention planning.

COMM-UNITY

Community is a fragile thing. That is especially true when a community is so often under attack. Gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders need opportunities like this one to help bring us together, to gain a greater understanding of one another's viewpoints, and to re-energize us in our struggle for full equality and justice.

Lambda Rising was founded with a primary commitment to the community. Yes, we are a business, and we know we cannot survive and grow unless we maintain a reasonable profit margin. But before profit comes community, before profit comes a sense of mission, before profit comes our duty to inform, educate, and support our community. That is why we urge you to get involved, make a difference, and demonstrate your own commitment to our community and its institutions.

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TADD is now the foremost advocate for transgenders in DC, fighting for the rights of incarcerated, substance abusing, homeless, and sex working transgenders. TADD has been profiled in local gay and mainstream press. Currently TADD has a civil lawsuit pending against the Department of Corrections. TADD meets regularly to provide prevention information. Our workshop will be conducted by a panel including members of TADD, and HCC's Executive Director. This panel will discuss HCC's prevention model via an interactive format highlighting appropriate terms of communication and acknowledging past difficulties. The panel will show how TADD has impacted AIDS prevention policies. Transgender-specific funding, surveys, and sensitivity training will be discussed. This workshop will culminate in a better understanding of: 1) addressing the need of transgenders to be included and empowered; 2: the importance of dialogue; and, 3) ending stereotypes to achieve balanced transgender participation.

Workshop Session #2

Womyn's Track: Ain't Nobody's Business If I Do: Womyn to Womyn Safer Sex

Carmen Shorter
Joan Fountain Room

Men's Track: Am I Sexist 101?

Bryan Glover, Elias Farajaje-Jones
Gerald Ludd Room

This interactive and emotional workshop will address some concerns of sexism/ heterosexism within the black/gay male community and how this impacts or impedes our working with lesbian and other womyn?

Womyn's Track: What's Loving Yourself Got to Do With It? Internal Self Hate

Dr. Marsha Darling
Barbara Jordan Room

This workshop explores the historical evolution of ideas and beliefs, some internalized, about Black womyn's unworthiness, and healing and resistence strategies.

Men's Track: Leadership Training 201

Chris Bates, Phill Wilson
Thomas Gleaton Room

This didactic and experiential workshop will discuss power dynamics, leadership qualities, who defines leadership, and how we develop and support mechanisms for our leaders.

The Center is seeking to fill the following positions.

Director of Finance

Finance/accounting professional to oversee all financial functions and manage six-person Finance Department. Requires excellent financial, budgeting, communication and organizational skills. Must have working knowledge of various accounting and spreadsheet programs, MIP a plus. Minimum four years management experience with a minimum of two years in non-profit organization required. Ability to prioritize work in very busy environment and to handle diverse personalities is essential.

Director of Human Resources

Human resources professional for all aspects of human resources, including payroll processing, benefits management, recruitment, development of personnel policy and procedures and vast array of additional HR duties. Minimum four years management experience with minimum two years in Human Resources or employment services required. Must have working knowledge of benefit administration, policies and procedures, and have word processing and data-base skills and superior communication and organizational skills.

Interested candidates should mail résumé and cover letter, stating desired position, to:

Center Personnel
208 West 13th Street
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Men's Track: Black Gay Youth Now: Mentoring

Michael Street, Richard Jones , L. Michael Gipson
Thurlow Tibbs Room

Often the lives of young Black gay males go unnoticed and unheard. This session will focus on the empowerment and creation of role models for young Black gay men.

Womyn's Track: Domestic Violence

Deborah Sawyer
Betty Shabazz Room

Transgender Issues: A Gathering of Womyn

Valerie Spencer
Tyra Hunter Theater

As African American womyn, there are commonalities that we share, and the time has come to celebrate them an strengthen the bond. Weather Transgender, Female, Lesbian, or Hetero, we are womyn and any fight can be won with us at the head. Gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, color shades etc have been the tools used by a society of fear to separate us. together we are, and together we shall forever be!! In this session, we will celebrate the bond of womyn, discuss our commonalities that span over geographic location, sexual orientation, preference, gender identity etc. in order to move forward, we have to dialogue on the past and the future.

General Conference
Workshop Session #1

Youth Track: Coming Out, Part 1

L. Michael Gipson, Jeni Wright
Joan Fountain Room

Minority LGBT youth today face many obstacles to achieve resiliency. One of the most challenging decisions an LGBT youth can make is whether or not to "come out of the closet" and reveal their sexuality to their family and peers. Generally, there is little support for these teens once they make hat decision. Additionally, studies show that by not revealing their sexual identity to their loved ones, LGBT youth are more likely to experience a number of mental heath problems, regularly abuse mind-altering substances, and frequently undergo psychiatric hospitalization. This workshop will examine all of the pros and cons of coming out to non- LGBT persons (family, friends, co-workers, etc.). Assessments of where each participant is in their coming-out process and self-acceptance will be determined during this

workshop. Guidelines for helping someone else come out will also be discussed. A 29 minute multi-cultural video on issues LGBT youth face will also be shown to explore the myriad of challenges facing minority LGBT as well as "mainstream" LGBT youth. A list of resources as well as a listing of states who provide legal protection for youth who wish to come out in the work place will be provided.

Why We BGMs Don't Date Our Friends

George Bellinger Jr.
Gerald Ludd Room

This emotionally charged discussion will help participants better understand what they are looking for in a partner and how we can have a better relationship, once we are clear on what we are looking for... and is it always from someone new?!?! This session sis especially designed for single men only. Others may observe, however information will be geared for people who want skills for better relationships.

Spirituality Track: Into the Center

Bryan Glover, Jennifer Cantu smith, Maisha Uzuri-James
Barbara Jordan Room

Participants will explore the relationship that lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders of African descent have with Spirit. For the purposes of this workshop, we define Spirit as an infinite growth and change force in the Universe that only has intentions for our highest good. It is an interactive workshop where participants will discuss her/historical perspectives, discover tools, and engage in exercises that help build community and connect with Spirit. Discussion will include but may not be limited to Spirit Circles: gatherings where people share resources, energy, information and support each other in connecting with Spirit.

Organizers Track: Media 101: Developing and Delivering Your Message

Mark Johnson, Kelvin McNeil
Thomas Gleaton Room

The importance of the media to the gay and lesbian movement can never be overstated. In our modern often instant communication culture it is essential that gays and lesbian have the skills necessary to utilize the media effectively. In addition, at times only certain faces are portrayed in the mainstream and the gay and lesbian press and the voices of people of color are not always heard. Two African-American gay medai relations professionals will provide an interactive skills building session designed for people who have never or who infrequently work with the media. Topics of the workshop include: media competence, message development and delivery, crisis communications, media activism, and interviewing skills. The workshop will conclude with a discussion of images of African-Americans in gay and lesbian media.

Spirituality Track: Silent No More: Examining the Bible in Light of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Community

Rev Derick B. Wilson

Thurlow Tibbs Room

African American churches have historically served as a foundation for the African American community. Many in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered communities are integral, albeit often silent members of worship communities. Very often, the silence about who they are regarding their orientation comes as a result of homophobic teachings and interpretations of the Bible which many also have ingrained within themselves, causing for them either a lack of self esteem, or a feeling of second class citizenship. Utilizing an interactive format, this intermediate level workshop will examine the stories of LGBT individuals as they relate to the church. It will then explore the verses in the Bible that have been utilized to make the LGBT community feel like second class citizens. Finally, this workshop will examine verses in the Bible that affirm the worth of LGBT individuals in the eyes of God.

Preparing for Promotion: Visioning Success

Kenneth D. Johnson

Betty Shabazz Room

Do your friends call you "crazy" for even thinking that you can move into the executive suite? Has the glass ceiling forced you to accept a lower paying job? Are there some days when you just say , "I've been in the storm too long?" If the answer to any of these questions is "yes," then join us! This workshop will teach you how to: (1) inventory the "current reality" of your job and pay; (2) create a "vision" for your future in the workplace; (3) identify "supporters" of your workplace goals; and (4) develop an "action plan" to make your vision a reality.

Literary Track: Nurturing the Arts/ Empowering Community

G. Winston James, Tony Daniels, Duncan Teague, Malik M. L. Williams

Tyra Hunter Theater

This workshop/discussion led by members of Other Countries: Black Gay Expression and The Adodi Muse: A Gay Negro Ensemble, will focus on the ways in which literary/arts groups and programming can be used to empower individuals and build and strengthen coalitions among various segments of our community. Using writers' workshops, reading series, performance groups and publishing projects as models, the workshop will examine methods of creating, maintaining and expanding cultural/arts organizations in the African-American LGBTI Community. The goals and mission of such organizations and their responsibility to individual artists and the greater community will be examined in depth. The workshop will discuss utilizing existing LGBTI community centers and organizations as incubators for fledgling arts groups and as low-cost venues for programming. In addition, ways in which to incorporate arts programming into the greater socio-political landscape of our community through readings, performances and co-sponsorship of events will be discussed.

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Youth Track: Coming Out, Part 2

L. Michael Gipson, Jeni Wright
Joan Fountain Room

see workshop session #1

Men Meeting Men

Bryan Glover, Keesler King
Gerald Ludd Room

Using individual, small and large group exercises, participants in this workshop will explore some of the boundaries that exist between themselves and strangers. An atmosphere will be created in which participants will be encouraged to meet one another in spite of anxiety and fear.

Examining Ourselves and Exploring the Identity of the Black Lesbian Black Lesbian Support Group Meeting:

Fatu Yarrow, Johanna Hardy, Facilitators
Barbara Jordan Room

The monthly meeting of the Washington DC based Black Lesbian Support Group. All womyn are welcome to attend, regardless of their regional location.

Organizers Track: What's Natural: A Discussion of the Winans Controversial Song

Sean Sasser
Thomas Gleaton Room

The recent controversy about the song "It's Not Natural" sung by Angie and Debbie Winans caused a media frenzy and gave the African-American gay and lesbian community an important opportunity for media visibility. Talk with activists involved in the media strategy and multi-organizational response to this homophobic song and participate in an interactive session that will put participants in a role play exercise based on this issue. This session will include tips and strategies to develop interview skills and techniques to take charge of interview situations and use them to your advantage. This interactive training will include on-camera interview practice. Participants of all skill and experience levels welcome.

Spirituality Track: Reclaiming Our Spiritual Birthright

Rev Robin M. Viorla

Thurlow Tibbs Room

This reclamation workshop was inspired and created in the spirit of healing of the body, mind, and soul. It is an effort to speak to the reality, of the pain and suffering that we endure, at the hands of a hierarchy of so-called Religious men, who have attempted to hold our souls for ransom, promising to release them, only after we deny ourselves, and our lives. Through this workshop we will examine the real, life-time affect that spiritual oppression has had on this human family, and, as in most cases of oppression, how the pain and limitations fostered through that separation is often turned inward, causing self-hatred and self-abuse. We will examine these manifestations within the context of how we treat ourselves and others. The Primus of this workshop is based on the notion that when individuals are deprived of their Birthright, of Pure and Free access to spiritual opportunity, they often lack the level of spiritual development, hat would allow them to integrate their lives in such a way as to assist them in a more complete expression of their personhood, as well as a greater feeling of comfort in the World. We cannot make others love and accept us, but we can learn to love and accept ourselves.

Black LGBT's in Recovery from Addictive and Compulsive Behaviors

Edith Washington

Betty Shabazz Room

Many African American LGBT's are in recovery for various types of addictive/ compulsive behaviors. However, we are all in recovery from racism, religious oppression, and being ostracized by our families and the African American community as a whole. The purpose of having a support group is for us to come together and provide support for all of our recovered processes. Participants work through these and other issues in a loving, nurturing environment. The facilitators will discuss their individual recovery processes, their experiences in starting and maintaining the group and the impact it has made on many of the African American LGBT's in the Twin Cities.

Literary Track: Open Readings

James Earl Hardy, Lisa Moore

Tyra Hunter Theater

Join us as our very own scribes, visionaries, and griots share from their own creative prose and poetry. James Earl Hardy and Lisa Moore will read from their latest works. A sign-in for open readings will be available.

Spirituality Track: African Americans, Homophobia, and God: Forming Partnerships for the Survival of Our People

Gregory J. Ford
Joan Fountain Room

Participants in the workshop will tell personal stories and see those stories acted out by their fellow workshop participants. No one will be forced to perform or share. The workshop director will use Playback Theatre techniques to encourage participants to tell stores about their own experiences with conflicting religious/spiritual beliefs and sexual practices within the African-American community and how that conflict has affected the efforts to eradicate AIDS and other problems which affect the African American community.

Crossing Color Lines: Collaboration Between Communities of Color

Sean Griffin
Gerald Ludd Room

This interactive workshop will utilize at least two group exercises and two forms of group discussion including brainstorming. Information and important topics from the workshop will be charted during the workshop and later transcribed for future review. The workshop will focus on real life experiences of the African American, Latina/o and Asian Pacific Islander communities working together in the Gay Men of Color Consortium.

Youth Track: Taking Services for At-Risk Youth Into the Future

Carl Strange
Barbara Jordan Room

This workshop reviews the issues facing gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender, and questioning youth, and how these issues relate to all at-risk youth. It presents the youth leadership model, a client participatory, managed care model that uses resources and funds already available to help agencies achieve the goals of risk reduction, suicide prevention, and substance abuse prevention. This model enables clients to become more independent by developing their existing skills and encouraging them to carry the message they have learned to their peers.

Organizers Track: Grassroots Organizing Weekends

Etoy Ridgnal
Thomas Gleaton Room

The heart of GROW, the Strategy Chart, is introduced in this session, with each column explained, after which a true example of the chart demonstrates how this can be put into practice in winning concrete victories. Goals, organizational considerations, constituencies

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and allies, targets, and tactics are all explained in this session. This session gives the participants the opportunity to utilize the strategy chart to develop a strategy around a given situation. Participants work in groups to develop strategies, which are later presented to the group as a whole and critiqued to ensure a full understanding of how to use the chart. In winning issue campaigns, organizations often find themselves working in coalitions. This session offers many tested guidelines for successful issue-based coalition by addressing the different challenges in coalition building. Participants then have the opportunity to examine hypothetical coalition partners and learn how to develop relationships that benefit all students.

Duties and Liabilities of Nonprofit Corporate Directorships

Marvin E. Prevost
Thurlow Tibbs Room

This workshop will briefly treat the differences between independent and group action, as well as between not-for-profit corporations and unincorporated groups. Most of the time will be spent looking at the structure and function of not-for-profit corporations. In this workshop the responsibilities, duties, liabilities, and powers of corporate directorship will be discussed in- depth. Also covered will be formation of an organization, use of procedural rules, aspects of planning, internal and external communication, and managing involvement of broad constituency.

Coming Out 201

Dennis Holmes, M.D.
Betty Shabazz Room

This workshop will focus on sociopolitical aspects of coming out. Using a discussion format, the workshop will focus on the following: internalized homophobia, self-empowerment, self-respect, dealing with negative stereotypes, how to come out, the pros and cons of coming out, and coming out as a lifelong process, as well as other related issues. This workshop is open to all.

Sexual Healing & Community Transformation, Part 1

David M. Carter, Kenneth T. Jones
Tyra Hunter Theater

Transforming Community will be among the first of many strategic planning sessions for recreation and control of black, gay and male identity as we move into the new millennium. This particular version of the workshop is poised to address the ever-popular (and often elusive) topics of sex and sexuality in the lives of black gay, bisexual and transgender men. The workshop was devised to help increase our awareness of different sexual perspectives and options, encourage openness to new information, and commence with the creation of new identity categories of our own making. Numerous creativity exercises will be employed to foster a comfortable, creative and thought-provoking session. Participants will actively be encouraged to critically interrogate the values and meanings they attach to sex and sexuality and to locate themselves in the context of larger social communities. Developed to encourage critical dialogue and personal reflection around the complexities of contemporary black-gay-male identity, a first step in this direction will be to acknowledge the social historical legacies of racism, heterosexism and homophobia which help to define us and which often have a significant albeit subtle impact on our personal values and meanings. Particular attention will be paid to our use of these selfsame categories in defining and

relating to one another as black gay, bisexual and transgender men. Participants are encouraged to come to this workshop with a willingness to work on personal issues across lines of difference and towards a unifying vision upon which we can build sound and productive relationships in the 21st century.

Workshop Session #4

AIDS Ministries in Traditional Church Settings

Rev Derick Wilson

Joan Fountain Room

Pastors and church leaders have historically and, in large part, still serve as community spokespersons and opinion shapers of the African American community. Considering the importance of churches and their leaders, it is integral that they take on the role of advocates and educators regarding AIDS. Utilizing an interactive format, this workshop will demonstrate effective strategies for gaining entree into churches, implementing programs that are inclusive, and enlisting support among church leaders. In the second half of the workshop session participants will go through steps in effective strategies for establishing a church based AIDS ministry. Further, this workshop will engage participants in how to develop a church vocabulary, and give necessary biblical justification and theological thought affirming the importance of HIV/AIDS education as a part of pastoral care.

Abandoning the Victim Identity— Surviving, Succeeding, and Thriving in Spite of Racism

Kenneth D. Johnson

Gerald Ludd Room

In 1995, the Office of Personnel Management concluded that black Federal employees are 2 ½ times more likely to be fired than white Federal employees. Racism remains a reality in government and private sector. In this workshop, you will learn how to effectively identify: (1) the racial "problems" which may have "stalled" your career (e.g. "Outstanding" performance ratings for white employees/ "fully successful" performance ratings for black employees); (2) the "solutions" to address racial "problems," including but not limited to filing internal discrimination complaints or charges with the Equal Employment Opportunity commission; and (3) the "results" of informally and formally addressing workplace discrimination— the ability to survive, succeed, and thrive in spite of racism.

Organizers Track: Celebrating and Creating a Visible Community for Ourselves: Black Pride Celebrations

Courtney Williams

Barbara Jordan Room

This open discussion workshop will focus on how to start, fund and implement black pride celebrations in your town/city. Person participating and attending black prides around the country (Dallas, DC, Cleveland, Detroit, Atlanta) will be asked to share their experiences. This workshop will also cover specific issues such as volunteers, logistics, participation, and outreach.

Organizers Track: Get Elected and Represent All of the People

Ken Reeves

Thomas Gleaton Room

Black lesbian and gay leadership is good leadership. In the last decade Black lesbians and gays have been elected and appointed to a number of leadership positions in local and national settings. What does it mean to be an election official who is lesbian, gay and Black? Will Black communities support Black lesbian and gay candidates? Will white communities support Black lesbian and gay candidates? Why aren't you a member of your local school board, mayor, congressperson, ambassador, cabinet member or president? Could you be more effective than the people who represent you currently? Let's talk.

Spirituality Track: Power of the Spirit

Dorothy Randall Gray

Thurlow Tibbs Room

You can change your life! A powerful spirit lives inside you. Power of the Spirit will present you with dynamic ways of empowering and transforming your life by tapping into that creative spirit. Accessing this spirit deepens conscious awareness and strengthens the divine connection between your inner and higher selves. It can also increase imagination, self-esteem and creative entitlement. By drawing on everything from Motown, mediation and mythology, to African and Native American spirituality, participants begin the stimulating journey to the endless ocean of their own creative power. Power of the Sprit uses music and motivational exercises, ritual, affirmation and visualization to ignite, inspire and shape the soul.

Strategies for Spiritual Empowerment from Traditional African Systems

Keith Crawford

Betty Shabazz Room

This workshop will introduce principles for spiritual empowerment hat can be incorporated into any existing protocol for self-improvement. The presentation will be both didactic and practical, and is designed to foster a dynamic exchange of ideas and experiences among participants and the presenter. The origin of metaphysical principles will be traced to the cosmology of traditional African systems as well as Judeo-Christian scriptures. The first part of the presentation will discuss traditional perspectives on our connectedness to God, ways we can enhance this relationship and the benefits to be derived from these exercises. The second part will address our connection to God through our creative ability. The exercises that will be introduced are ideal for relaxation and improved concentration ability. They are particularly helpful for people experiencing health problems. Many of the principles are derived from the Hermetic philosophy of ancient Kemet (Egypt) and examples will illustrate how they are encountered in other African systems.

Sexual Healing and Community Transformation, Part 2

David M. Carter, Kenneth T. Jones

Tyra Hunter Theater

see workshop session #3

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1998 National Black Lesbian & Gay Conference

Embracing Ourselves, Empowering Our Communities

Straits of Malaya Restaurant 1836 18th Street, NW 483-1483
(see the ad in the February 6th issue Washington Blade)

Mr. Henry's Capitol Hill Restaurant 601 Pennsylvania Ave., SE 546-8412
(20% off meal bill with conference badge)

Remingtons 639 Pennsylvania Ave., SE 543-3113
(free admission with conference badge)

WEDNESDAY, 2/11/98

Raymond Carter & Associates presents Phat Wednesday @ 360 Club 5th & K Sts., NW
(free admission with conference badge)

FRIDAY, 2/13/98

Raymond Carter & Associates presents **@ Tracks** 1st & M Sts., SE
(free admission with conference badge)

The Edge 56 L Street, SE 488-1200
(Friday night dance party with reduced admission with conference badge)

SATURDAY, 2/14/98

Raymond Carter & Associates presents Ladies nite @ 360 Club 5th & K Sts., NW
(free admission with conference badge)

SUNDAY, 2/15/98

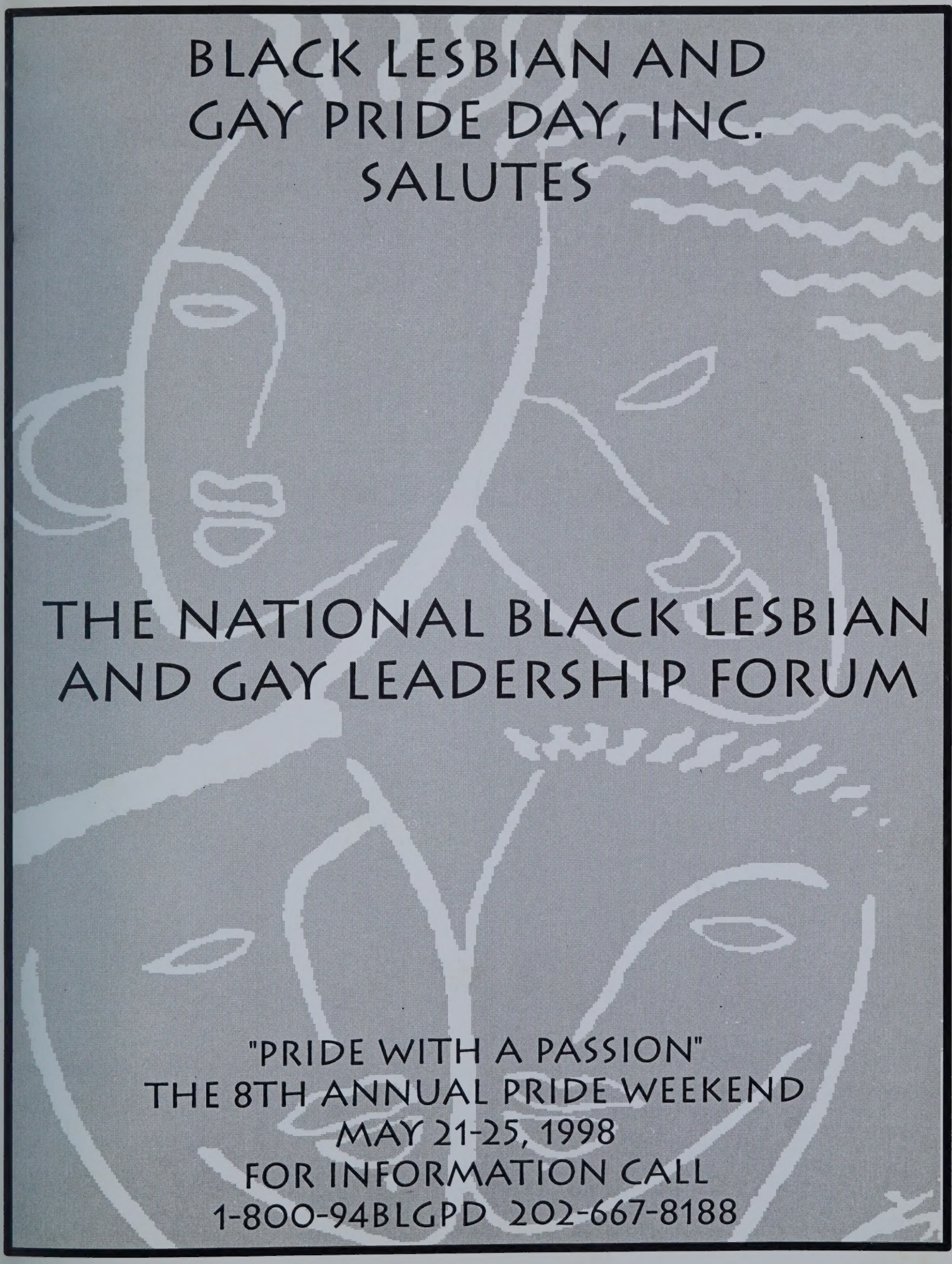
The Circle Underground 1629 Connecticut Ave., NW 462-5575
(Sunday night dance party with drink specials with conference badge)

Nob Hill 1101 Kenyon St., NW 797-1101
(Sunday night two for one drinks with conference badge)

The Staff and Steering Committee of the 11th Annual National Black Lesbian and Gay Conference and Institutes

APPRECIATE THE TIME, DEDICATION, AND LOVING SPIRIT OF THE MANY VOLUNTEERS WHO WORKED HARD TO ENSURE THAT OUR COLLECTIVE EMBRACE REMAINS FIRM AND OUR COMMUNITIES ARE FURTHER EMPOWERED.

THANK YOU ALL
FOR DARING TO BE POWERFUL!


BLACK LESBIAN AND
GAY PRIDE DAY, INC.
SALUTES
THE NATIONAL BLACK LESBIAN
AND GAY LEADERSHIP FORUM
"PRIDE WITH A PASSION"
THE 8TH ANNUAL PRIDE WEEKEND
MAY 21-25, 1998
FOR INFORMATION CALL
1-800-94BLGPD 202-667-8188

food for thought

Got To Be There!

We're grabbing a place for ourselves in the future, by helping each other stay uninfected. Stay in the race. Help a brother. Join us for Soul Food.

119 West 24 Street, 6th Floor, NYC, 10011

For Information Call 212-367-1379

soul food
brothers healing brothers b.2k
GMHC

art director: Michael MonCrieffe • photography: Sean Drakes 1997